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THE TIMES

No. 65,893

MONDAY MAY 19 1997

TODAY

10p

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PAGES 40, 41

14 PAGES OF

PLUS: LIONS IN AFRICA

16-PAGE SPECIAL

TIMES SPORT

IT'S CHELSEA

Oliver Holt, Rob Hughes, Lynne Truss and Steve McManaman at Wembley

PAGES 28, 29

TODAY

10p

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

The genesis of John Lennon's songs

Why M&S is out of fashion

TOMORROW

Dot Cotton returns to EastEnders

Noreen Taylor interviews June Brown

The Good University Guide: The top courses, subject by subject

WEDNESDAY

My father's dream: Zoë Wanamaker on the opening of the Globe Theatre

THURSDAY

Best for books: reviews by Jeanette Winterson and Peter Ackroyd - plus Alastair Little on the River Café Cook Book 2

SATURDAY

Universal pictures

The world according to Hubble

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Labour MP faces police inquiry on bribe claim

By Julian Bowditch and Arthur Leathley

TONY BLAIR faced his first crisis as Prime Minister yesterday as police began investigating allegations that Mohammed Sarwar, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, paid a £5,000 bribe to a rival candidate to try to boost his own general election vote.

The political career of Mr Sarwar, 44, Britain's first Muslim MP, was thrown into doubt less than three weeks after he was elected with a majority of 2,914 over the Scottish National Party candidate Nicola Sturgeon.

Although Mr Sarwar strenuously denied a string of allegations, the Government yesterday called on Andrew Hardie, the Lord Advocate and Scotland's most senior prosecutor, to set up a police investigation into the affair.

The Labour leadership decided against taking disciplinary action against Mr Sarwar yesterday but issued a clear warning that it would consider his suspension from the party if criminal charges are brought against him.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, underlined the party's commitment to tough action, and senior sources made clear that Mr Sarwar's expulsion from the party was inevitable if the allegations were proved. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, called in Mr Hardie as Mr Sarwar was summoned to appear before Nick Brown, Labour's Chief Whip, at Downing Street.

Mr Brown held a 25-minute meeting with Mr Sarwar in his office before deciding that the Glasgow Govan MP should continue his work as a backbencher pending the police investigation.

Mr Sarwar will also be asked today to submit a detailed explanation of his defence before a provisional report is put to the Labour National Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday.

It emerged last night that the independent Labour candidate for Govan, Peter Paton, who polled 325 votes, is considering petitioning Glasgow Sheriff Court to have a rerun of the election in Govan. Mr Sarwar, who has agreed to co-operate fully with the police investigation, has denied that he "bribed" another independent Labour candidate, Islam Bader, who polled 319 votes.

According to the *News of the World*, Mr Sarwar handed over the money in a blue plastic carrier bag to Mr Bader, a former cricketer, while the two men sat in his white Mercedes.

Mr Bader, who was in hiding last night, alleges that he was asked by Mr Sarwar before the campaign to refrain from canvassing in order not to split the Labour vote. He says he did not canvass for a month after the meeting.

Mr Sarwar said in a statement yesterday: "The allegations made about me in today's newspapers are totally false. Therefore, in addition to co-operating with any police investigation, I will be consulting with my lawyers about taking out a writ for defamation."

The allegations are the latest in a series of alleged malpractices in the constituency during the election campaign. Strathclyde Police yesterday confirmed that they were already investigating claims by Mr Paton that voting was rigged and Mr Sarwar spent more than allowed on his campaign.

Mr Paton said last night: "I am demanding a rerun on the basis that the election was fundamentally flawed. I am considering raising a petition in Glasgow Sheriff Court and will be consulting my advisers."

He is entitled, as a candidate, to petition the court under the Representation of the People's Act 1983 if he has specific allegations of malpractice. If the court, sitting as an electoral court, agrees that there has been malpractice, then a rerun could be ordered. Any petition would have to be brought within three weeks of the election, a deadline which expires on Thursday.

Dirty tricks, page 2
Leading article, page 21



Karen Jones, from Wrexham, being comforted outside Old Trafford after hearing the news of Cantona's retirement

Cult hero Cantona retires with hint of theatre and film career

By David Maddox

ERIC CANTONA offered the most unpredictable twist last night to a career of surprises, by announcing his retirement from football.

Such is the cult of the Manchester United forward, who is 30, that he has transcended the sport. His decision invoked disbelief and anguish among the supporters who idolise him.

Cantona's capacity for the unpredictable may not have been exhausted. In announcing his retirement he hinted at a more exotic career. "I have played professional football for a long time, and now I wish to do other things," he said. That direction could be towards theatre and film. He has long expressed a desire to become a director, has recently financed the run of a stage play in Paris, and a film in which he starred *Le Bonheur est dans le Pré* is about to be released on video.

Hundreds of fans flocked to Old Trafford yesterday, unable to accept the awful truth. Finally, they had to. At 3.38 pm Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, confirmed their worst fears. "Eric Cantona has indicated his wish to retire from football with immediate effect," he said.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, described the loss of the player in a manner which reflected the almost funeral atmosphere that had developed around the ground. "He has been a marvellous servant to Manchester United and we are here to pay tribute to him. He is certainly one of the greatest ever United players."

If there was a sense of shock in Ferguson's tone, then it was offset by his acceptance of the inevitability of Cantona's departure which reflected, perhaps, the harsh financial reality that is professional football these days.

Manchester United is a public company, and there is no room for sentiment, even towards a player who has done so much to generate its success. Cantona had long wanted to finish at the top of his profession and a failure to renew his contract and a search for his ultimate successor perhaps hastened his decision to quit.

Ferguson hinted as much when he said: "I think we will find a player of his calibre again, because that's what happens in football - great players emerge all the time."

Manchester United has not closed the door on a return for Cantona and history suggests there is still hope of the legion of fans who were devastated by his announcement. Before arriving in England almost six years ago, he had retired from French football and did not kick a ball for three months.

Simon Barnes, page 3
Oliver Holt, page 25



Cantona: unpredictable

Secret Nazi messages reveal Jews' slaughter

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

TOP SECRET decrypts of German police and SS telegraph traffic detailing the systematic slaughter of Jews across Russia and Ukraine in the Second World War will be released by the Public Record Office today.

The decrypts carried out by the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park will reopen the debate about how much Churchill and the other Allied leaders knew of the early stages of Hitler's Final Solution. The declassified files will reveal overwhelming and gruesome evidence of a dedicated programme of executions, all logged by the Bletchley codebreakers.

However, John Fox, a lecturer in Jewish history and Holocaust studies at Jews' College in North London, said the declassified files would not prove that Allied governments were fully aware of the slaughter of Jews as part of official policy until late 1942. On December 17, 1942, the Allies declared an intention to prosecute Nazis for war-crimes when the war ended.

Dr Fox said that although the decrypts of German police and SS traffic were passed to Churchill "at his request" and to the Joint Intelligence Committee, the breaking of the German Enigma code was such a guarded secret that "very few people knew about it."

Dr Fox has seen some of the files to be released today after decrypts carried out by Bletchley Park were declassified by the American National Security Agency last year under the Freedom of Information Act. The

Continued on page 2, col 6

Prescott orders tough targets for water firms

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SWEETING changes in the way the water industry is run will be announced today by the Government in an attempt to cut water consumption, end waste and save rivers, lakes and beauty spots.

The measures are expected to include the setting of tough, legally binding, leak-reduction targets, a requirement that all companies should offer a free repair and leak-detection service for customers, free water audits for the creation of a water saving trust.

The changes will be announced in London at the water summit ordered by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, responsible for the environment. It will be attended by the water industry, green groups, regulators and the environment agency.

The Government's plan, designed to modernise the industry and help to guarantee supplies and wildlife protection into the next century, comes after sharp criticism of the utilities by Labour when it was in opposition.

The water industry says that the attacks are unjustified and that it has been investing hundreds of millions of pounds in improving a mains network and infrastructure which, when water was state-owned, was becoming increasingly decrepit and starved of investment.

The water saving trust, backed by groups including the Royal Society for the Protection of

Continued on page 2, col 5

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TV & RADIO 46, 47

WEATHER 24

CROSSWORDS 24, 48

LETTERS 21

OBITUARIES 23

PETER RIDDELL 20

ARTS 18, 19

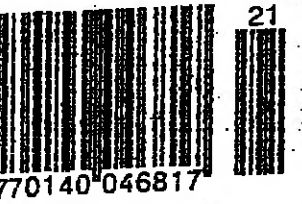
CHESS & BRIDGE 37

COURT & SOCIAL 22

BUSINESS 42-46, 48

MIND & MATTER 15

LAW REPORT 39



Glasgow Muslim fulfilled political ambitions at price of controversy

Rags to riches story of MP with many enemies

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

MOHAMMED SARWAR has long been a controversial figure in Glasgow Govan, the area he now represents as Britain's first Muslim MP.

Last week he was sworn in as the first Muslim MP. Last week he was sworn in as the first Muslim MP.

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daughter Perveen, then 17. Mr Sarwar and Perveen married in Muslim and Church of Scotland ceremonies 20 years ago and settled with Perveen's parents in a three-bedroomed council flat in Glasgow's Maryhill.

The couple did not take a holiday for ten years, working in the family's corner shop from 9am till 7pm, seven days a week.

But the shop could not support the entire family, and Mr Sarwar and his brother Ramzan looked for new opportunities. When a local egg wholesaler went bust, they seized their chance, buying hundreds of cases of cut-price eggs which they delivered to Asian corner shops around Glasgow, making a profit of 50p on each of the cases.

From there the brother's cash and carry business, United Wholesale, was born. The business has an annual turnover of more than £80 million. Mr and Mrs Sarwar own half the shares although Mrs Sarwar denies that the couple are millionaires. "We are comfortable, that's true, but talk of millionaires is nonsense."

The couple have four children, who are privately educated. The family live in a large Victorian sandstone house in Pollokshields, the upmarket end of the constituency.

Mr Sarwar's business ambitions have grown in tandem with his political ambitions. "Politics is my addiction," he says. "Ever since I was a teenager I have wanted to change the world, to join with those who are trying to reduce the gap between rich and poor."

When the Pakistan People's Party was founded in 1967 Sarwar, then a 15-year-old schoolboy, joined. He was encouraged by Benazir Bhutto to take up politics in Pakistan after he left university. In Scotland he became president of the PPP, a post he held until 1992.

He has been a member of the Labour Party for ten years and was elected Labour councillor for Pollokshields in 1992. His ambition has been to become a secular figurehead for Britain's three million Muslims.

But despite his fundraising for a Glasgow mosque and his election as secretary of the Central mosque in 1986, he does not have the backing of the entire Asian population in the constituency.

Mike MacLean, the editor of *Scottish Asian Voice* says it is a mistake to speak of the "Asian vote". He says: "The way the community lives, works and thinks makes it so fragmented that you can't split it on race, creed or business lines."



Mohammed Sarwar arriving at Heathrow from Glasgow yesterday

Party makes uneasy progress in wooing minorities

By Arthur Leathley

ALTHOUGH the Labour Party proudly hailed Mohammed Sarwar as Britain's first Muslim MP, the party has sometimes had a strained relationship with the Muslim community in recent years.

Roy Hattersley, Labour's former deputy leader, was driven to complain about the party's attitude to the ethnic population, particularly the large Muslim element, in inner-city Birmingham.

Mr Hattersley intervened in a protracted dispute in which the Asian

community was accused of trying to force out one of three white MPs. A party inquiry into claims that more than 250 mainly Asian members had breached party rules by not being on the electoral roll led to four constituency parties being suspended.

However, Mr Hattersley, former MP for one of the seats, Sparkbrook, took up the Asian cause by writing to Labour's National Executive Committee. "A large number of the complaints [about membership irregularities] amount to complaints that Muslims have behaved like Muslims," he urged the party high

command to ensure that an Asian candidate was selected for one of the seats to reflect the wish of the multi-ethnic community to be represented by someone from a minority.

Labour has emphasised its keenness to field more ethnic minority candidates but acknowledges that the policy has created some unforeseen difficulties. Strong campaigns by Asian activists to secure a candidate have prompted fierce internal disputes in several inner-city seats across Britain. In Manchester, Gordon, Gerald Kaufman, the former shadow Foreign Secretary, survived

Asian attempts to deselect him. The dispute boiled over when the Labour leadership suspended an Asian member and later had to apologise after admitting a case of mistaken identity.

A senior Labour figure said: "There is a problem when any section of a party is significantly more active than the majority of members. It doesn't matter whether it is left-wing, female, Muslim or whatever. It is not racist to say that many Asian members campaign more actively, some would say aggressively, for their cause." Labour leaders are

aware of charges of infiltration of local parties by Asian members. Roger Goddard, who eventually won the selection for the merged Birmingham Small Heath and Sparkbrook seats, called for a full review of Labour's membership rules to guard against "entryism" by any faction.

The party was forced to intervene amid allegations of membership irregularities when the Bradford West constituency party attempted to oust its MP, Max Madden. Two wards were suspended after allegations of irregularities were upheld.

Prescott stalls restart of tunnel freight

By Arthur Leathley and Jason Nisse

JOHN PRESCOTT is to block the reopening of the Channel Tunnel to freight shuttle services until he receives firm assurances over safety improvements.

The Deputy Prime Minister will tomorrow meet senior managers at Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, amid French fears that he will step in to prevent the resumption of services suspended since last November's fire. A delayed restart would increase financial pressure on the debt-laden company, which has heavy French investment.

The six-month suspension of the freight shuttle service and repair work to the fire-damaged tunnel has cost around £200 million and Eurotunnel shareholders, who are mainly French, are anxious for an early restart.

The French Government is concerned that Britain is hardening its stance over the freight service, which Eurotunnel and French ministers are anxious to restart next month. They had hoped that permission would be granted at Anglo-French talks last week. But Mr Prescott instructed British officials at the talks not to approve the resumption until he receives personal assurances that a £20 million safety improvement programme will be implemented swiftly.

Observers at the talks reported a last-minute hardening of the British delegation's position after Mr Prescott had criticised Eurotunnel's safety procedures. If officials cannot reach agreement at Thursday's Anglo-French meeting, ministers may be drawn into the discussions.

Last week's Channel Tunnel Safety Authority report into the fire was described by Mr Prescott as "an indictment of poor operating procedures and practices by Eurotunnel". He welcomed the report's 36 recommendations for safety improvements and demanded that Eurotunnel implement the changes "promptly and in full". He was said to be worried that the safety authority did not lay down a timetable and he will demand tomorrow that Eurotunnel sets out a clear plan for introducing equipment changes within months.

Mr Prescott is also to press Eurotunnel to commit itself to intensive work to change the design of its lattice-sided train wagons. Although he acknowledges that an immediate ban on the wagons is unrealistic, he is determined to obtain assurances that Eurotunnel will look urgently at ways of improving them.

Tougher rules due on animal exports

Ministers will today launch plans for an overhaul of the export of animals for slaughter. The Government is expected to clamp down on welfare abuses, which have prompted demonstrations by animal activists at ports.

The move will be coupled with fast implementation of existing laws to raise animal export standards. The review, carried out by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will cover all aspects of the export process, including loading and food and drink supplies.

Wet and wild

Torrential rain and thunderstorms caused flooding in parts of eastern and south-west England. Almost a month's rain - 1.4in - fell in two hours in parts of Somerset. Freak winds in the village of Wootton, near Bedford, damaged the roofs of 25 homes in one road.

Forecast, page 24

Holiday ends

More than 500 German holidaymakers whose cruise ship *Albatross* was holed in rough seas off the Isles of Scilly began the first leg of their journey home yesterday, on a ferry that took them to Penzance. The liner apparently struck bottom in shallow waters off the island of St Mary.

Seal rescued

A seal trapped in a reservoir at the Dungeness B nuclear power station, Kent, was hauled to take a rest on a specially lowered platform, and hoisted away. It was taken to a seal sanctuary in Norfolk for checks, and will be freed at sea.

Sinn Féin stunt

Sinn Féin's two new MPs will today attempt to gain entry to the Palace of Westminster. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness will arrive in the hope of picking up their passes before they are barred from using Commons facilities at the end of the debate on the Queen's Speech tomorrow.

MIS opens up

MIS is to release secret files from its origins in 1969 to 1978 to the Public Record Office: the first time that its archives have been made public. This week it is to advertise for graduate recruits, specifically naming the Security Service as the employer, also for the first time.

MPs prepare for Bill to ban hunt

By James Landale, Political Reporter

MPs OPPOSED to field sports are expected to begin moves this week to put a law banning hunting before the Commons. They hope that one of their supporters will be among the small number of MPs selected for a Private Members' Bill.

The Bill is expected to focus on banning the hunting of foxes and deer with hounds. However, it is remains unclear whether the Government is willing to spare parliamentary time this session to give a ban the chance of reaching the statute book.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was yesterday forced to deny reports that the Government itself was preparing its own Bill to ban hunting. Speaking on *Breakfast with Frost*, he confirmed, however, Labour's manifesto commitment to give MPs a free vote on a ban. He had not decided which way he would vote. "It is not an issue on which I have ever felt profoundly strongly."

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, estimated that 75 per cent of the new House of Commons was opposed to hunting. "I expect the legislation to be brought forward as a Private Members' Bill," he said. "It is going to be quite attractive for a new MP who wants to make a name for him or herself."

Many of the new MPs have backgrounds as animal welfare campaigners. Angela Smith, Labour MP for Basildon, used to work for the League Against Cruel Sports. Roger Casale, Labour MP for Wimbledon, used his opposition to field sports to oust his Tory predecessor, Charles Goodson-Wicks, chairman of the British Field Sports Society.

Mary Labour MPs will take their cue from Tony Blair, who has said publicly that he is personally opposed to fox hunting - which he considers "particularly vicious" - and will vote against it.

Water firms

Continued from page 1 Birds (RSPB), the House of Commons Environment Committee and the Environment Agency, is likely to mirror the Energy Saving Trust funded partly by profits from the electricity industry. It gets about £44 million a year and pays for installing energy-saving devices.

A water saving trust will use water companies' profits to install "water-miserly" devices such as low-flush lavatories in thousands of homes a year. It could also act as a research body to develop more low-water-use dishwashers, washing machines and other appliances.

Barbara Young, RSPB chief executive, said yesterday that higher abstraction licence charges should be made on water companies, industry and farmers who "are paying little for water because of historical arrangements".

Nazi codes

Continued from page 1 Bletchley Park files are from archives held by GCHQ, the Government's eavesdropping centre in Cheltenham, and the successor to the Government Code and Cypher School.

They will reveal how meticulous the German police and SS were in recording the murder of thousands of Jews during 1941 and 1942. Dr Fox said: "You get the impression of a huge military operation."

The bulk of the executions were carried out by the police, known as Ordnungspolizei, in alliance with the SS. They listed executions under two headings: "cleansing operations" and "action according to the use of war".

Evidence of the scale of the murders is recorded in *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, the official war history by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley and three co-authors. On August 7, 1941, for example, the commander of police in the central sector of Russia reported that 30,000 executions had been completed.

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Cantona created Manchester United in his own image: majestic, insufferable, compelling

From football talisman to national cultural icon

By SIMON BARNES

ERIC CANTONA, never previously seen as the retiring type, has retired. It is not too much to say that he leaves a gaping hole in national life. There is a footballing cliché much in vogue: "talisman". It is the Cantona word: the *mot juste* in fact.

Cantona came to English football in 1992 after a previous retirement, leaving French football in sulking disgrace, before landing at Leeds United and helping them to win the league championship. But Leeds found him uncomfortable and sold him to Manchester United for £1 million. It was the steal of the decade. For Cantona gave Manchester United more than his skill. He gave them his style.

Unsubstantiated arrogance. Immaculate self-belief. "I only know one way to take penalties," he said. "And that is to score them." He turned up his collar and walked with his shoulder-blades touching. He walked on to a football pitch as if he was doing the grass a favour.

Every Manchester United player took on a little of his style, his swagger, his belief. The backheel: that was the most obvious part of it. The backheel — flicking the ball



Cantona launches his infamous kung-fu attack.

back the wrong way — is essentially a paradox: always showy and sometimes devastating.

In his career as a French footballer, Cantona was hindered by the lack of language barrier. But in England he was free in perfect incomprehensibility. And adored: the hero of his own myth, one he himself believed unquestioningly. Cantona's genius was to infect his entire team, and its following, with this belief: because of it, Manchester United was successful as never before, resented as never before, followed as never before.

Cantona created Manchester United in his own image: majestic, insufferable, compelling. Manchester United won

the Championship four times in the five Cantona Years: before his coming they had not won it since 1967. The year they failed came after his eight-month ban from the game. This was the result of the extraordinary kung-fu incident, when he launched his famous flying kick at an abusive Crystal Palace fan.

It was inevitable that Cantona would go for the flashy overhead kick when a mere rabbit punch would have sufficed. But Cantona was always a man with an aversion to the ordinary. Perversity is his nature. Had all footballers been philosophers and artists, Cantona would have been a moronic Rambo fan. Things being otherwise, Cantona

loved to emphasise his taste for Rimbaud, and to act the philosopher. His not terribly gnomic remark — "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think that sardines will be thrown into the sea" — was the perfect example of Cantona overacting the part that is himself.

Perhaps the ultimate accolade came with a painting, a renaissance spoof by the Manchester artist Michael Browne, blasphemously depicting Cantona as the risen Christ. From footballing talisman to national cultural icon.

But Cantona has been a lesser footballer this season. Some trace his decline to a penalty miss in September: a miss that shattered his self-belief. His retirement may be no more than the latest sulk and it would be no earth-shattering surprise were he to unretire once again.

But even if so, this is a momentous passing. There are many contenders for the First Modern Footballer: only one possibility for the first Post-Modern Footballing Man. He once said: "Vieilles ne signifie pas qu'il faille trahir sa jeunesse, ses excès." Growing old doesn't mean you have to betray your youth, your excesses.

Oliver Holt, page 25

Shocked faithful at Old Trafford face the future without their retiring hero

By RUSSELL JENKINS

DISBELIEFING fans headed, almost by instinct, towards the ticket office car park at the Old Trafford football stadium yesterday afternoon to discover whether the unthinkable was true.

There they stood, adults and children together, as if in grief, to mourn the decision of their idol who decided, as he headed towards the venerable age of 31, to hang up his boots. One sported a hurriedly scrawled poster which read: "The King has Gone. Long live the King. Thanks for everything Eric." Gordon

Haime, 21, a security worker who lives in Warrington, Cheshire, a United fan all his life, summed up the bleak mood. He said: "Manchester is a different place today. It is a black day. Eric was the king of Manchester."

The fans had assumed that he would stay on for one last season and have one more attempt at putting United's name on the European Champions League trophy. Cantona had other ideas. He left behind a terse statement as he and his family, wife Isabelle and children Raphael and Josephine, headed off for a long holiday. The fans,

gathering outside the stadium in their red shirts and scarves, at first speculated hopefully that their hero would change his mind. Then they tried to assign blame for his sudden departure on the press.

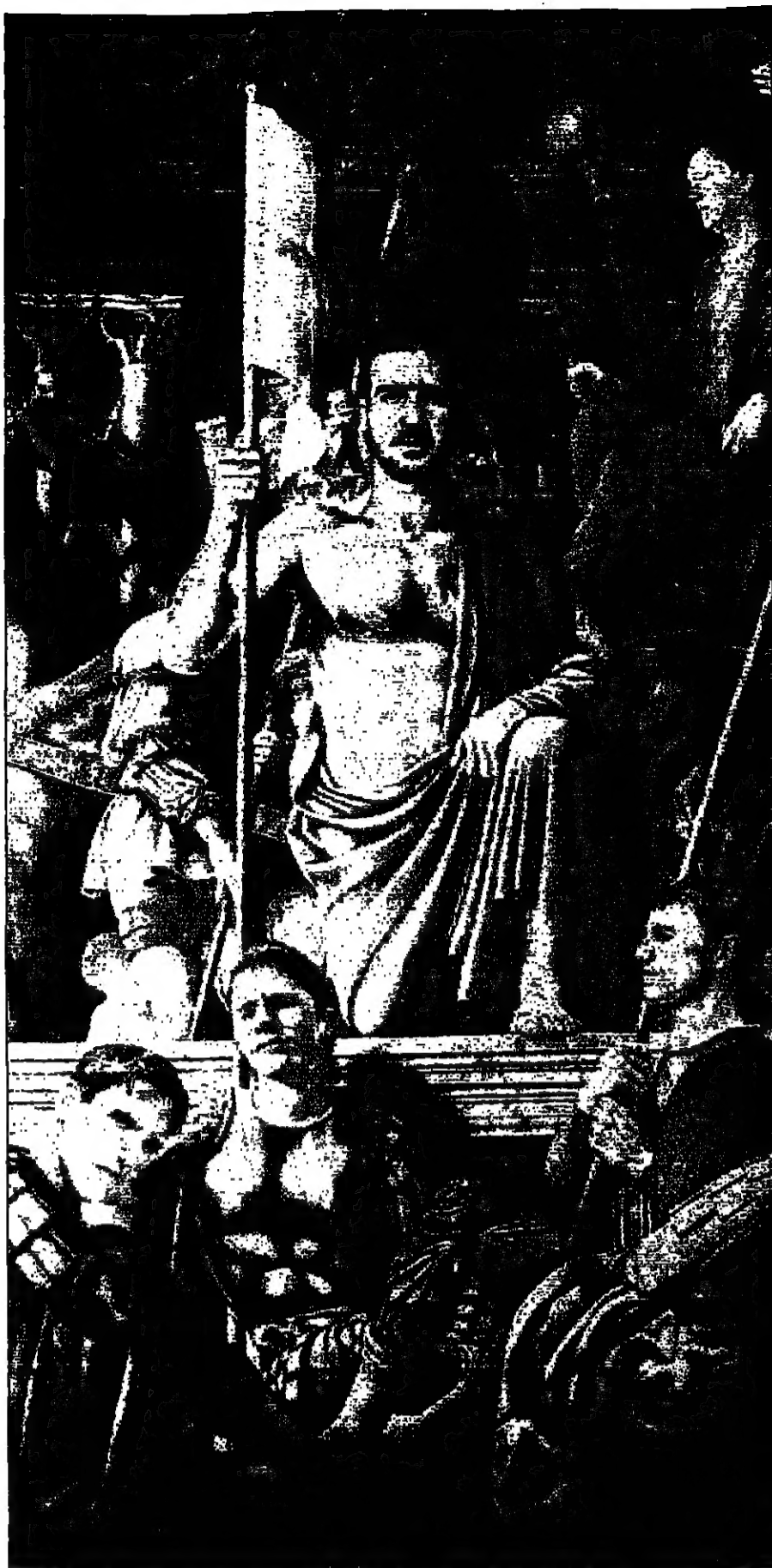
Terence Walsh, 34, from Moxon, Greater Manchester, said: "I am gutted. I cannot find words strong enough. He has gone. He was the impetus behind the team and now he has gone from Old Trafford. There is a lot of talk of Juninho coming here."

"I don't think anybody could do what he has done. Just his presence on the pitch

could make the difference in some games. He always made the team play well. This is a sad day for United."

Marcel Wright, 21, from Wythenshawe, said: "Alex Ferguson should have persuaded him to stay another 12 months at least. He is the inspiration on the pitch and in the club. All the youth team players look up to him."

Mark Irving, 24, from Warrington, said: "This is the ultimate in going out at the top. The club waited 26 long years. We have never had a prolific goalscorer and a player who could change a game in an instant."



The United captain portrayed as the risen Christ by Michael Browne

Chelsea savours taste of success

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WHEN Chelsea last won the FA Cup 27 years ago it is a safe bet that the fans who thronged along Fulham Broadway were not sustained during the wait for their heroes by ciabatta sandwiches.

Yesterday the Sundancer Café was doing a roaring trade in Zolas (parma ham, mozzarella and tomato) and a concoction of salami and pepperoni which the owner claims is a favourite with Roberto di Matteo, a customer and the scorer of the fastest goal in the history of a Wembley cup final.

Sacha Vitorovich, who is from Italy via Belgrade, has a sharp business eye. He opened his café, in a prime spot opposite the Fulham town hall and an olive stone's throw from Stamford Bridge, six weeks ago as Italian fever gripped this part of west London. The success of Ruud Gullit's cosmopolitan team had much to do with his Italian trio of di Matteo, Gianfranco Zola and, for a couple of minutes on Saturday, Gianluca Vialli.

Di Matteo waved at his sandwich maker as the open-topped coach inched past through an exuberant crowd. Scotland Yard estimated that up to 60,000 fans filled neighbouring streets. Many had been there since dawn, having partied all night after the 2-0 defeat of Middlesbrough.

Gullit said a few words that were relayed inaudibly over a PA system and Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport and Chelsea fan, was equally incompressible. The crowd cheered anyway. The players then disappeared inside the town hall for a civic reception. Much of the crowd returned to the pubs.

In Middlesbrough, Wembley's vanquished returned home to an enthusiastic reception — despite two cup final defeats and relegation. The team also toured in an open-topped bus.

Photograph, page 24 Match reports, pages 28, 29

Theme-park flag and anthem give UK plc an identity crisis

By ALAN HAMILTON AND KATHRYN KNIGHT



Same colours, new look: the image consultancy flag

TIERED old Britain needs a new brand image, and the first things to go should be the national flag and the national anthem, according to a design consultancy which specialises in buffing up the corporate identity of major companies.

New, improved Britain should make its brand name snappier by dropping the word "Great". It should cast aside the 106-year-old Union Jack, with its intricate overlapping of the crosses of St George, St Andrew and St Patrick, in favour of a bold red and blue design with the word "Britain" emblazoned in white. And it should cease imploring God to save our gracious Queen, and sing instead

of green fields and spires, lakes and sea shores.

Wolff Olins, the image consultancy which turned British Telecom into BT, says business leaders believe that the country's image is trapped in a heritage theme-park past of the Tower of London and the Changing of the Guard. The image speaks to the world of poor industrial relations and the late delivery of goods, it says.

John Williamson, a senior partner at the agency, which unveiled its proposed corporate image for UK plc on BBC2's *The Money Programme* last night, said: "We need to create a new modern national brand — a new brand for the new millennium." According to research by the agency, conducted since February, people who buy a German car, Japanese hi-

fi or Italian suit are influenced by the reputation of the country as well as by the individual brand.

Some business leaders supported the redesign. Nicholas Scheele, chairman of Jaguar Cars, agreed that the country's brand image had fallen behind the times. Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, said the airline was about to unveil a new logo that put less emphasis on the national flag. "We want to be more cosmopolitan, more informal, but to keep the good qualities we have as a country."

However, Audrey Baxter, managing director of her family's Scottish-based soup and canned food business, said: "We are in danger of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. What's wrong with the

Union Jack? Why not use the Union Jack?"

Wolff Olins is the country's leading branding and identity specialist. Its past multimillion-pound redesigns have included colouring the famous ICI logo blue, changing the typeface and making the lines underneath less wobbly. But perhaps its greatest gift to civilisation was to kill off Buzby, the intensely irritating bird that advertised the telephone service.

Less impressive is the consultancy's proposal for a national anthem, sung to a tune that has echoes of a ponderous Welsh hymn. "Green fields and spires, lakes and sea shores/Our towns and our cities, our goal to be more/A fusion of peoples, united, one shore/Our Britain, our culture, the world is our door."

Nor is it entirely clear why the proposed new flag needs the word "Britain" on it, given that the present one, which does not, is one of the most recognisable emblems in the world.

□ Buckingham Palace yesterday emphatically denied a report that the Queen and her courtiers objected to the presidential style of Tony Blair's walkabout on his way to the State Opening of Parliament.

Palace officials poured scorn on a newspaper's suggestion that, with his informal style and breakfast pace of reform, Mr Blair was stealing the royal clothes. "It is inaccurate, nonsensical rubbish. The only thing that is accurate in the story is the spelling of the prime minister's name," a spokesman said.

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Tiniest water company has good service on tap

BRITAIN'S smallest water company stands high and dry above the wrangles over leakage rates, drought and fat-cat salaries that wash over the rest of the industry, and which will be brought into focus today at the Government's water summit.

The 3,000 customers served by Cholderton and District Water Company in Wiltshire enjoy low bills, unrestricted supplies and some of the cleanest drinking water in the country. The company estimates its leakage rate at 5 per cent, compared with nearly 40 per cent for Thames Water.

Henry Edmunds, the managing director of Cholderton, runs it from a village farmhouse. He said yesterday: "I did a hosepipe ban about ten years ago. But since then we haven't needed one. We do not look favourably on sprinklers, however. I have a duty to get water to people for essential use and I do not look on them as essential."

In the past two years the company's water has complied 100 per cent with European standards, according to the Government's Drinking Water Inspectorate. Public

Nick Nuttall samples the wares of a firm that has no need of the tough targets that are to be imposed on the major privatised water suppliers by John Prescott

service remains central to the company's ethos, echoing its origins. Cholderton was set up in 1904 by Henry Stephens, the philanthropic MP for Finchley and great-grandfather of Mr Edmunds.

"We repair all leaks immediately," said Mr Edmunds, who, in contrast to the smart company cars and suits sported by the heads of the big water firms, travels to meetings and checks customers' complaints in a Land Rover and army-style fatigues.

"Just the other day one of our customers had a nasty leak under their drive. I was looking at their bill and I thought, 'That's way too high'," he said. "So we went round and installed three meters, changed all the piping on the property, which is not actually the company's responsibility."

The whole thing was done for free. But it should result in

savings for the customer and should save us water."

Mr Edmunds, who has a staff of three, says the company is making great strides in metering, in line with government, regulator and environment agency recommendations to conserve water. "Three years ago around half a dozen customers were on meters. Now it's over 100."

The firm, which supplies about 800 homes, farms and businesses in the villages of Cholderton, Wiltshire, and Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire, pumps 55 million gallons a year from one main and one standby borehole.

Bills, which cover only supply and not sewerage, are nevertheless some of the lowest in the country, at about £120 a year. Mr Edmunds admitted he was concerned about the drought and dwindling resources but believes the company can manage and

has, unlike many privatised water companies, retained the goodwill of customers.

"I imagine we will have to bring on line the standby borehole sometime this year. But we send out circulars to customers telling them that every pint they are using is affecting the groundwater and rivers. They do respond."

Mr Edmunds attributes the company's success to its size and the customers' pride in having a local supplier. "There were once small, statutory water companies across the country. But they have been amalgamated or taken over. We are the last. Being small means we are right on top of the job. If customers have complaints they come straight to me and they get sorted out very quickly."

Malcolm Brown of Country Leisure, a Cholderton company of 30 employees that makes water-slides and other equipment, said: "We use Henry's water for toilets, drinking, washing and steam-cleaning. Never been a problem, always good pressure, plenty of supply and very drinkable, clear and nice. His prices are next to nothing."



Henry Edmunds on his company's covered reservoir in Wiltshire, serving 800 properties in two villages

Elephants find deep meanings with trunk calls

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ELEPHANTS communicate using deep rumbling calls too low for the human ear to hear, research in the Amboseli National Park in Kenya has shown. Dr Karen McComb, an animal behaviourist from the University of Sussex, has recorded calls made by females, and shown that individuals may recognise the calls of as many as 150 others.

Their response depends on how well they know the caller. "Such extensive networks of vocal communication have not been demonstrated in any other mammal," she says.

The first time Dr McComb and her colleagues discovered this, with Cynthia Moss, it was to understand the social structure of the elephants, which is based on a series of adult females and their young. These families "are very stable, surviving 'bond' groups with closely related females, and lesser groupings with other families living further away."

"Elephants seem to be doing quite complex social things," she says. "They are not just sitting there and communicating with their immediate neighbours."

The early hunters believed that the noises made by elephants were the rumbling of their stomachs, but they are in fact sounds produced by vocal cords so huge that the basic frequency is 20 cycles per second or less, below the range of human audibility. "We can hear them because we hear the harmonics that go up into the audible range," she says. "But we don't hear them as the elephants do."

She has made a library of recordings of the calls of

individual elephants, and played them back through a specially-designed speaker. The tests show that the elephants responded positively to the contact calls of family and bond group members, moving in the direction of the call and calling back.

When they hear the call of a stranger, however, they either ignore it or become agitated. By comparing these responses with detailed records of the elephants' relationships and movements, she found that the elephants' response depends on their familiarity with those calling.

"What we found is that the ones they see fairly regularly, they tend to ignore. The ones they get bothered by are the ones they don't see very often," she says. Because the sounds are such low frequency, they carry a long way, and can be recognised from at least 1.5 kilometres.

"It's amazing when you see an elephant turn towards a sound, you yourself cannot even hear," she says. Some people have argued that alarm signals can be heard over even greater distances.

She has recently received a grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and intends to return to Amboseli in July. The question to be answered is what enables elephants to develop such large networks of communication.

"Elephants move around a lot, so they are exposed to a lot of signals," she says. "But it may also be to do with experience — do the groups with the oldest elephants have larger networks because they have had longer to learn?"

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Swampy's scruffy airport army gets rations from women who live in Styal



Matt, Denise and Muppet Pete, who occupy a tunnel dug on the Manchester runway site

Volvo wives take home comforts to eco-warriors

By STEPHEN FARRELL

SWAMPY and fellow eco-warriors seeking to halt construction of Manchester Airport's second runway have found unlikely allies. Each morning a Volvo-load of middle-class housewives arrives with supplies for their campsites near Styal, Cheshire.

The battle over the £172 million development enters its final stage this week as bailiffs prepare to evict Swampy — Daniel Hooper — and the other protesters.

The impending clash is unlikely to deter the women in Barbour coats and Hunter wellingtons who joke about having become "surrogate mums" to the dreadlocked and nose-pierced protesters occupying ancient Bollin Valley woodland, through which

local children have ridden family ponies for years.

Politely asking permission from security guards to pass through gates in the airport's 10ft razorwire fencing, the women from Mobberley climb over defensive earthworks to bring day-old loaves, French sticks and doughnuts supplied free by a local baker. With Middle England efficiency they have organised a rota to ensure regular deliveries to dirt-encrusted activists in the five main camps known as Flywood, Babylon Council Estate, Sir Cliff Richard OBE, Vegan Revolution, Ziontree, Wild Garlic and Jimi Hendrix.

The women's duties include recharging the activists' mobile telephones and car batteries

and filling water containers from garden hoses. Two weeks ago they threw a huge picnic for the mainly vegetarian protesters, with vegan chillies, quiches, fruit and soya milk, laid out on garden tables in front of the bewildered airport security staff.

Drawing on years of experience preparing school lunchboxes, they gave each protester a sealed "eviction box" containing crisps, biscuits, mineral water and puzzles, with strict instructions that the packs were not to be raided until the bailiffs move in.

Gaynor Trafford, 44, a housewife, and Sylvia Selfe, 52, a company director, said that their husbands supported their actions but preferred to spend their spare time playing

golf and leading the Scout troop. Mrs Trafford, dressed in a bright pink pullover and multicoloured jacket more at home on ski slopes, carries a mobile telephone to pass on shopping requests from her new friends, and complains that her Suzuki four-wheel drive vehicle is followed everywhere by police.

"We have come to know the protesters as family over the last four months," she said. "We bring them back for baths, do their washing, carry out a little puppy-minding and act as agony aunts. Some locals do say to us the runway will create a lot of jobs for the area but most people in Mobberley are firmly against it and support these youngsters. They have been no

trouble at all. I have had to promise my husband I won't get arrested but I'm afraid I won't be able to just stand by and do nothing when the evictions start."

Mrs Selfe good-naturedly shrugs off teasing about her insistence on wearing nail polish and starched white collars when carrying bin-liners full of fruit and buns through muddy fields. She admits her two Gordon setters took time to adjust to sharing their garden with a collection of protesters' mongrels with such names as Mutley and Muppet, but shrieks with laughter at the thought of getting further involved.

She will not be occupying a 60ft treehouse: her fear of heights leaves her unable even

to climb unaided the flight of steps down to the camps. "An awful lot of people feel the way we do but don't want to get involved. We just really, really don't want this runway on our doorstep. This is such a lovely valley," she said.

Eighty activists occupy the six camps on the A538 Wilmslow to Manchester road. The settlements are an untidy collection of ragged tents, tree walkways and firepits behind makeshift drawbridges and barbed-wire-filled moats, unlikely to trouble the bulldozers for more than a few minutes.

The airport won planning permission for the 3,050-metre runway after a 101-day public inquiry in 1995. It claims the expansion will create 50,000

jobs and boost capacity from 15 million to 30 million passengers by 2005.

Graham Stringer, Labour MP for Manchester Blackley and chairman of Manchester Airport, has little time for the protesters' arguments or tactics, and puts them in the same social group as their local helpers.

"They are unrepresentative hypocrites who are damaging the environment they claim to protect and damaging the prospects of unemployed people," he said. "They should go back to their comfortable middle-class homes in the South. They come from the same part of the political spectrum as fascists."

Leading article, page 21



Sylvia Selfe and Gaynor Trafford taking care of Mutley, one of the protesters' dogs. They have "come to know the protesters as family"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aboriginal seeks the head of ancestor

An Aboriginal politician is due to meet the Home Secretary Jack Straw this week to seek the return of the head of an ancestor buried on Merseyside. Yagan, a renowned tribal leader, was murdered in 1833. His preserved head came into the possession of Liverpool Museum, which recommended its disposal in 1964. It was buried in Everton Cemetery and now lies beneath the graves of 20 still-born babies. Ken Colbung, who arrives from Australia tomorrow, also hopes to meet the babies' families.

Veterans ditch

Two German men aged 69 and 72 ditched their motorised glider at St Margaret's Bay, near Dover. The two had been attempting to fly to Lydd airport from Calais with seven similar planes when they became lost in fog. Only one reached Lydd.

Soldiers die in car

Three British soldiers were killed when their car collided with a truck on a busy road in southeast Cyprus. Witnesses said that the car came to rest in a field, trapping all three. The accident happened at lunchtime. The men, based at Dhekelia, were not named.

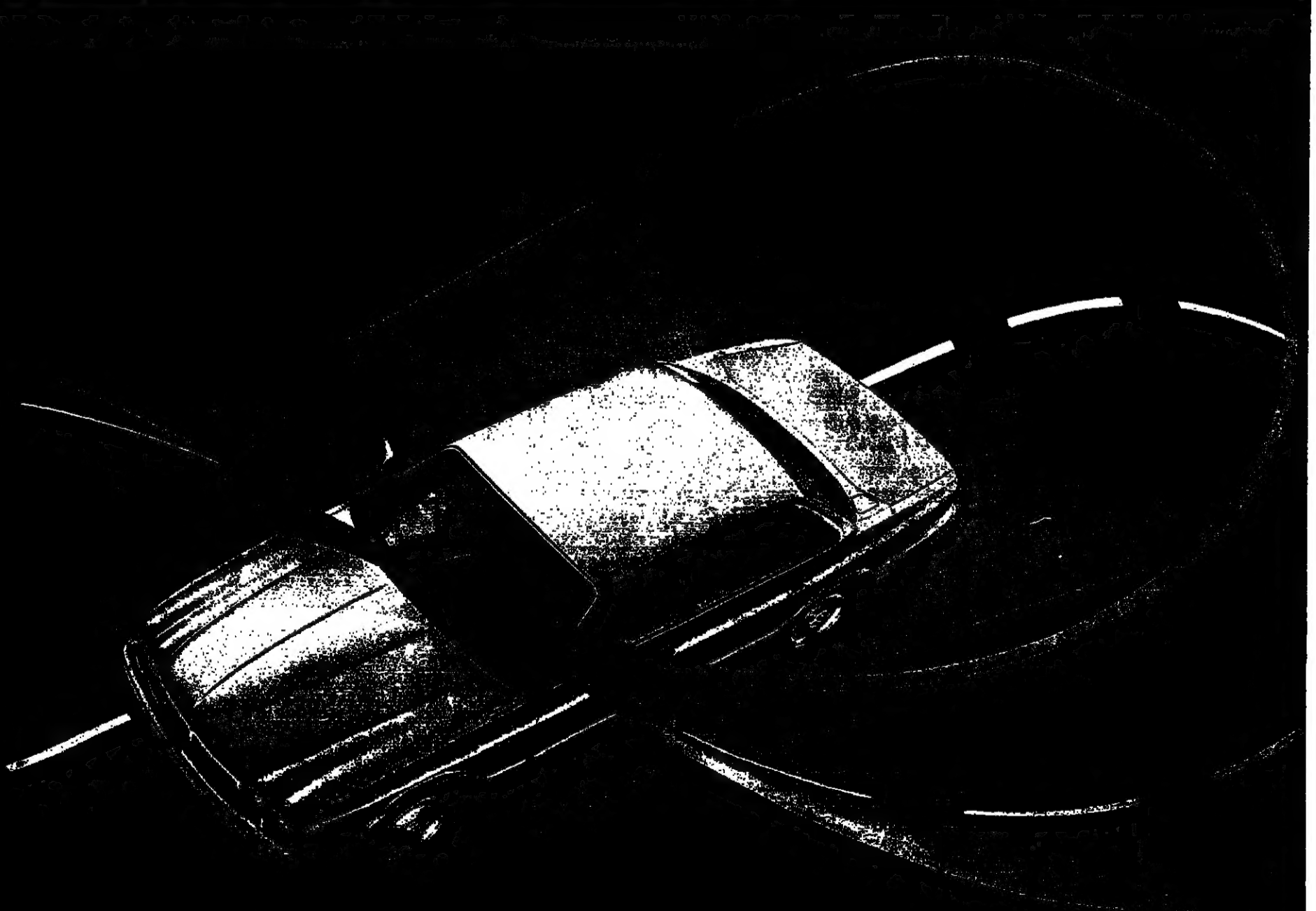
Palace by phone

Buckingham Palace has introduced a telephone line for members of the public visiting over the summer to book their tickets by credit card. Visitors can make a booking by dialling 0171-321 2233. The State Apartments open on August 8.

Plastic deterrent

Plastic road signs are being put up in Nottinghamshire because aluminium signs have been stolen since a sharp increase in the metal's scrap value. The thefts, sometimes by the van-load, have cost the county council thousands of pounds.

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Because it's there (and nobody knew it was)



By DANIEL MCGORRY

A BRITISH climber plans to be the first to scale a peak in Tibet that nobody in the West knew existed. John Town believes that at 23,124 ft, Jomo Gangtse — "Mother of Snow Hill" — is the highest unscaled mountain in the world.

He "found" the peak by chance while poring over satellite maps in the archives of the Royal Geographical Society. Mr Town, 44, noticed the 7,048-metre peak jutting above a range that neither explorers nor climbers had heard of.

"I stared at it several times, turned the map upside down until I was sure," he said. "It is like an astronomer finding a new star, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But the advantage for a mountaineer is that we can reach our discovery."

Mr Town, who is the Academic Secretary for Bradford University, has been given permission by China to lead a British expedition



John Town will lead an expedition to Tibet's Jomo Gangtse mountain, previously unknown to the West. He believes it is the world's highest undimbed peak

to make the first attempt to climb Jomo Gangtse in July. "There is a race on. The Japanese are furious we found it and unless we climb it at our first attempt, then you can be sure they will be right behind us."

The Chinese authorities confirmed the existence of Jomo

Gangtse on a 1989 military map after charting the remote Tibetan plateau with the help of American satellite technology. Previously the peak had been mistaken for a much smaller neighbour.

"The Chinese are still very sensitive and secretive about this area and we climbers are not

meant to see such detailed maps," Mr Town said. "This is still such a mystery mountain in that there are only satellite images of it and no photo. We won't know what it looks like or the best way to climb it until we get there."

His expedition will begin its journey on yak and will have just a

month to discover a route across a glacier to the upper snow slopes and then to complete its climb to the summit. "The money will run out after that and none of us can get any more time off work," Mr Town said. "The weather will not be at its best but we cannot delay any longer or somebody else will

beat us to it." He expects the expedition to cost £23,000 but so far only half the money has been raised.

There are 14 peaks, including Everest, that are more than 8,000 m high. "The trouble is they have all been surveyed and climbed so many times there is

nothing new to discover about them," Mr Town said. "It is thought that there are 400 peaks that rise above 7,000 m and all are in Central Asia but only a handful appear on the Tibetan plateau."

The other members of the expedition will be Richard Wojaszewski, 32, his wife Alyson Stirling, 33, Huw Davies, 33, and Tony Ward, 29. None has climbed such a high peak before.

Jomo Gangtse lies at the southern end of the Nyanchen Tunga range at its junction with the 600-mile long Gangtse chain, a day's drive from the capital, Lhasa. Mr Town is relying on Chinese maps to guide him, many of which date from the past century. Most were compiled by Indian travellers, known as Pandits, who dared not spend much time calculating heights accurately. They surveyed the area for the Raj in the 19th century, disguising themselves as local people and their instruments as religious artefacts for fear of being captured.

Mr Town, from Ilkley, west Yorkshire, who is married with two children, said: "It's thrilling to think old Jomo has been there for thousands of years and no one knew it. The Chinese are still very secretive about it all but there is no doubt they have had help from American satellite technology, so we are sure we won't find it a mountain mirage."



Polar women were down to their last bar of chocolate

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MEMBER of the first all-women expedition to the North Pole described last night how her team was marooned for six days on a drifting ice pack with dwindling supplies.

Rosie Clayton-Stancer and her three colleagues had only a little chocolate left when an aircraft braved the deteriorating conditions to rescue them.

Ms Clayton-Stancer, 35, was on the fourth leg of the McVitie's Penguin Polar Relay with Andre Chadwick, 32, Sarah Jones, 28, and Juliette May, 33. The rescue plane set down the fifth and final team, which must move quickly to cover the last 110 nautical miles to the Pole before the thaw starts early next month.

Penguin Delta, the fourth team, had made good time covering 125 miles in 18 days, but the women were left stranded when severe weather set in after they had established camp to wait for the changeover.

Speaking yesterday from base camp at Cornwallis Island in the Northwest Territories of Canada, Ms Clayton-Stancer said: "It was a real test of endurance. It was very tense, cold and hungry. We had found a decent spot to camp until a plane could find

us but the weather was so bad no one could reach us."

"We had been on half-rations for a few days. By the end we had only a few bits of chocolate left. We talked about food a lot. It took a lot of attitude but we really worked as a team. We kept ourselves active, clearing the landing-strip and keeping all our equipment in order."

Temperatures were about -20C. The team's main fear was that the ice beneath them would crack up. "It was also hard because we would have a radio call saying a plane was coming and then they would radio back to say the weather had deteriorated and they couldn't come."

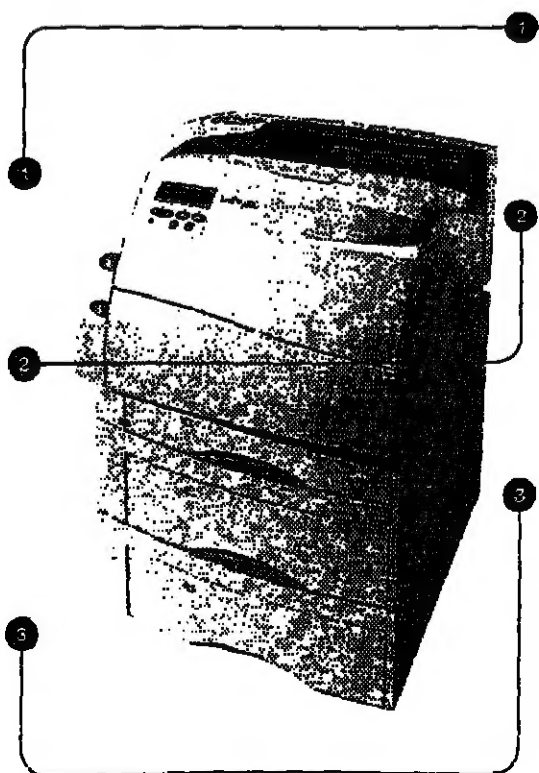
"After a while we were hallucinating, thinking the wind was a plane overhead," Ms Clayton-Stancer, a graduate of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, said.

The final team, which hopes to plant the Union Jack at the North Pole, is made up of Zoe Hudson, Lucy Roberts, Pam Oliver and Caroline Hamilton, expedition leader.

The expedition has so far covered 350 miles. The 20 women taking part were selected last September from 65 hopefuls during a weekend on Dartmoor.

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Spaghetti and roast beef honour mission to the heathen English

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FIFTY pilgrims braved no greater danger than Italian drivers yesterday as they left Rome to honour the Italian who braved English heathens. A journey to retrace the steps of St Augustine began with the atmosphere of a jolly coach outing, and a lunch menu combining spaghetti, al pesto with roast beef.

St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, took a year to reach Britain after he was sent by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons 1,400 years ago. The fifty ecclesiastical volunteers in Pilgrims' Way 1997 will take a week to reach Pegwell Bay, the saint's reputed landing site in the AD 597.

They will link up with other pilgrims marking the death in the same year of St Columba of Iona, the Irish apostle of Scotland.

The 1997 pilgrims left Rome for Assisi, their first stop, in the red and cream livery of

East Kent Coaches, driven by Michael Dennis, resident in Stagecoach 66 and blazer. He said: "Italian drivers are quite something, but I'll manage. I volunteered for this. It's what you might call an unusual job."

The group is predominantly Anglican, but also includes Roman Catholics, Methodists, American Episcopalians, Lutherans and followers of the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church. Many are retired or near retirement; all believe in Anglican-Roman Catholic rapprochement. The youngest is Anthony Cross, 18, the son of a clergyman from Inkbarrow, in Worcestershire.

St Augustine's journey to Kent was so arduous that at one stage he wanted to turn back in Gaul, and had to be talked out of it by Pope Gregory, who made him a bishop to encourage him. Yesterday pilgrims in panama

hats enjoyed an agreeable lunch on the immaculate lawns of the British Embassy to the Vatican, an oasis in the Rome heat. "Not much mortification of the flesh here," said one pilgrim happily.

The Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Richard Llewellyn, who is acting as chaplain on the trip, noted that there was "no reason why obligation and mission should not also include pleasure. We will be studying St Mark's Gospel en route, and we are going to walk some short stretches of the journey. I'm not sure which ones."

The pilgrims have been given an extra copy of St Mark's Gospel to hand to someone along the way through Italy and France. "Unfortunately it's in English," the Bishop said, "but we will get the message across."

The Dean of Norwich, the Very Reverend Stephen Platten, who had the idea for the pilgrimage in 1990 and helped to organise it, said it was not even certain how St Augustine had made the original journey.

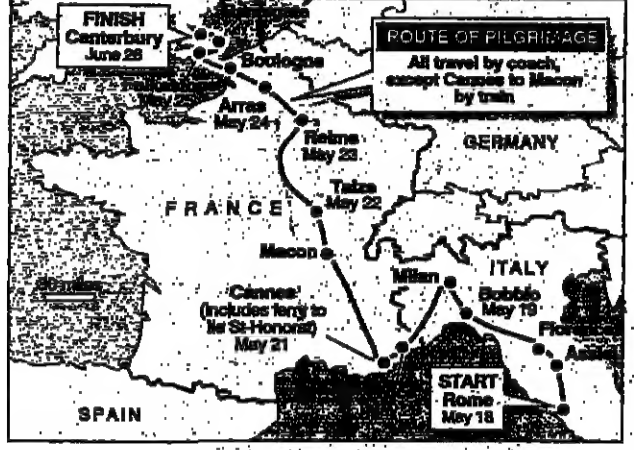
"Some think he went to Ostia and took a boat to France to avoid the mountains of northern Italy. But we wanted to visit some of the great centres of Christianity which were certainly part of later pilgrim routes, such as Assisi and Florence."

Ostia is now a bathing resort. The nearest port is at Civitavecchia, from where the pilgrims head south to Sardinia rather than north to France.

At Pegwell Bay, near Ram-



St Augustine: he had to be warned not to abandon his "high enterprise"



gate, the travellers will be met by Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal Basil Hume, who in a gesture of ecumenism will walk with the pilgrims to Ebbwfleet Cross, the traditional site of St Augustine's landing, followed

by a service of thanksgiving at Canterbury Cathedral.

At a service at the church of San Gregorio on the Celian Hill in Rome — which still contains the marble throne in which Pope Gregory sat when despatching St Augustine to Britain — the prior Father

Innocenzo Gargano, reminded the pilgrims that Pope Gregory had told St Augustine "not to be deterred by the troubles of the journey or what men say. It is better not to undertake a high enterprise at all than to abandon it once begun."

American Bible belt forecasts devilish future for European Union

BY RUTH GURDELL

AMERICAN Christian fundamentalists view the European Union as a satanic grouping, according to a paper published today by the centre-left think tank Demos. They see the EU as the revived Roman empire foretold in Revelation, which will be dominated by the Antichrist. Nearly

a third of Americans hold such apocalyptic views, which are probably already influencing government policy, Karen Armstrong, the religious author and former nun, says. No government should ignore the large, born-again Christian lobby, she adds in *Demos Quarterly*.

Miss Armstrong says born-again Christian fundamentalists have long

regarded the United Nations as a satanic body. "They are passionately pro-Israel, for example, because the Bible teaches them that unless the Jews are in control of their Holy Land, Jesus cannot return."

The fundamentalist movement in America was in eclipse, discredited by the scandalous behaviour of some of the leading television evangelists,

but was likely to revive. Although evangelical churches were growing in Britain at the expense of the liberal wing, she says, fundamentalism was unlikely to take hold, because religion in Britain was identified with the Establishment, and research showed that fewer British than American people believed in God.

Writing in the same publication,

Grace Davie, senior lecturer in sociology at Exeter University, issues a warning that regular church attendance was now a minority pursuit in Britain and resistance to unorthodox, New Age beliefs was declining.

Keeping the Faiths, Demos (9 Bride-well Place, London EC4V 6AP. Telephone 0171-353 4479; £8)

Policewomen deserve fitting body armour



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

DESPITE the repeated reassurances of doctors, most women have a deeply ingrained fear that injury to their breasts could lead to cancer. There will therefore be no lack of sympathy for the women police officers who object to wearing body armour that painfully constricts their breasts and which creates friction when they take part in physical exercise.

The skin of the breasts and the nipples is always sensitive, and presumably particularly vulnerable to damage when damp from the sweat engendered by exertion coupled with anxiety. In some instances the skin has become chronically inflamed by pressure from the armoured waistcoats.

Experience gathered over many generations has shown that a blow to the breast does not produce cancer. It can, and frequently does, result in a haematoma, a hard lump formed from a collection of blood in the breast tissue. Very wisely, the woman, when she finds the lump, immediately sees her doctor. Occasionally, when examining her breasts, the doctor may find another lump which is malignant. Even in the absence of a haematoma after a breast injury, the blow will prompt a woman to feel her breasts, where, by chance, she may find cancerous lumps.

The association between breast injuries and an increased incidence of malignant tumours is therefore thought to be entirely the result of medical surveillance that picks up cancers

which were already in the breast but which had not yet become obvious.

Injury to the breast tissue, if it is severe enough to produce a haematoma, causes distinctive changes on a breast mammogram or X-ray. I have seen two patients who have suffered damage to their breasts because they encouraged their horses to nuzzle them. In one case, the resulting mammogram produced such an unusual picture from the horse's bite that it has been widely used, anonymously, for teaching purposes. The woman made a recovery and has had no subsequent trouble.

The data so far collected from the policewomen shows no relationship between wearing the body armour and malignancies, but presumably this cannot have been a long-term study. There are statistics that might be relevant. About ten years ago, a survey showed that breast cancer was more common in the left than the right breast. A possible explanation offered at the time was that this small difference might be because men, who are predominantly right handed, are more likely to fondle the left breast of their partner, which is therefore subjected to repeated mild trauma.

If the pressure from a lover's hand can cause long-term injury, why not that given by an armoured waistcoat? Women police should be issued with made-to-measure waistcoats on the grounds of reassurance, if nothing else.

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Private head teachers aim to keep 'social mix' when Government scraps assisted places

Girls' schools plan £70m rescue fund for poorer pupils

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LEADING independent girls' schools are planning to announce a £70-million scheme to save all 3,000 of their assisted places for pupils from poorer families after government subsidies are scrapped.

The 24 members of the Girls' Public Day School Trust — which include Bath, Portsmouth and South Hampstead High Schools — said they would introduce their own bursaries. In a separate move, the two Haberdashers' Schools in Monmouth have announced their own scheme to meet the £1 million cost of their own 212 assisted places.



William Jones provided for a 'free school'

The new Labour Government has said that it intends to phase out the Assisted Places Scheme, which provides a state subsidy of £130 million for 34,000 children attending fee-paying schools. The money is to be used instead to reduce the class sizes in infants schools.

Some critics say the change could make some private schools more elitist by reducing the variety of backgrounds

confirmed that it could afford to pay £2 million next year for the 450 assisted places offered annually at its schools.

The trust began planning in earnest to reorganise its assisted places in 1990, fearing that they would be scrapped if Labour won the 1992 election.

Michael Oakley, secretary of the trust, said further details would be announced when the Government published its Bill phasing out the scheme. He added: "We could fill these places with fee-payers but the trust has always been committed to making its schools accessible to bright girls from families who otherwise could not afford it."

"We do not want to turn our schools into schools which are only for the relatively wealthy. A lot of our fee-paying parents prefer our type of school where their daughters will mix with a good cross-section of the community."

Tim Haynes, headmaster of Monmouth School, said that it would cost £1 million a year to



Tim Haynes says the education offered by Monmouth School should be open to children of all backgrounds

replace the assisted places at his boys' school and the Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls.

A fund of £42 million had been raised by selling property left to them in 1615 by the founder, William Jones, a liveryman of the Haberdashers' Company.

Mr Haynes said: "Trustees are very conscious that this is in line with the founder's

original intention. We don't want to see these schools become socially or economically exclusive."

Jones left £9,000 in his will, dated December 1614, to found a "free school" for Monmouth. Mr Haynes added: "We have a very good education to offer and we think it should be open to children of all backgrounds."

"We are educating children for the rest of their lives. They

are going to be living and working alongside people of all backgrounds and they should be educated alongside people from all backgrounds to learn tolerance and how to work together."

Chris Parker, head master of Nottingham High School, and chairman of the assisted places committee for the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that

schools could not afford to replace the "vast majority" of places.

Nottingham High hopes to provide ten places a year to replace its 40 assisted places. "I would say that we are doing far more than most," he said.

"It seems a complete paradox that something Labour is doing is making schools more elite, which is surely the last thing that they want."

Education ministers warned against 'quick-fix' plans

By DAVID CHARTER

SCHOOLS that have been failing for a long time yesterday warned the Government against disrupting their plans for recovery with attempts at quick-fix solutions.

Ministers are to announce action plans tomorrow for a number of failing schools it believes are making unacceptably slow progress. Today *The Times* names the 38 schools, initially inspected two or more years ago, which have still not improved sufficiently to come off the critical list. About 2 per cent of all schools are classed by Ofsted, the schools inspectorate, as failing and needing "special measures".

Representatives of some of the schools that have been on the list the longest have warned the Government not to jeopardise progress made in the past two years for the sake of making an example of some struggling schools. Norfolk, for

example, has three of the schools classed as failing for more than two years.

Michael Edwards, Norfolk's chief education officer, said that they all needed substantial changes of staff, something that could not be done quickly.

"It takes time to appoint new staff and for them to make their mark in improving the school," Mr Edwards said. "You cannot change a school by some laser surgery; it has to be a more constructive operation than that and requires a lot of patience."

Labour will have to wait for legislation before it can impose its "Fresh Start" plans, which involve temporarily closing the school and re-opening it with new staff. However, it can ask authorities to send in expert teachers to revive a school.

Mr Edwards said: "We would find it difficult to believe, in the case

- ### FAILING SCHOOLS
- Battersea Technology College, Wandsworth
 - Lilian Bayliss School, Lambeth
 - St Richard of Chichester School, Camden
 - St Stephen's C of E Primary School, Lambeth
 - Rough Hay Primary School, Darlington
 - Walsall Wood Primary School, Walsall
 - Hockwold Primary School, Thetford, Norfolk
 - Abbey Farm Middle School, Thetford, Norfolk
 - Morningside Primary School, Hackney
 - The Langham School, Haringey
 - St Joseph's Academy, Lewisham
 - Fred Nicholson Special School, Dersham, Norfolk
 - Lee County First School, Slough, Berkshire
 - Pinewood County Primary School, Stoke-on-Trent
 - Geoffrey Chaucer Comprehensive School, Southwark
 - Upottery Primary School, Upottery, Devon
 - Shaw Park Primary School, Hull
 - William Penn School, now Dulwich High, Dulwich
 - Rams Episcopal Primary School, Hackney
 - Weavers' Fields (Special) School, Tower Hamlets
 - Upbury Manor GM School, Gillingham
 - West Gate Community College, Newcastle
 - South Berwell Primary School, Newcastle
 - Handsworth Wood Boys' School, Birmingham
 - The Pupil Referral Unit, Brent
 - St Hugh's GM High School, Grantham
 - Mary Linwood School, Leicester
 - Bulford Haig Primary School, Salisbury
 - Fryerns School, Basildon
 - Southfields GM School, Gravesend
 - Little Ilford School, Newham
 - Ingram High School for Boys, Thornton Heath
 - St Joseph's RC Junior School, Waltham Forest
 - Park Lane Primary School, Wembley
 - Hollyhead Primary School, Wadsworth, Sandwell
 - Galsborough Primary School, Newham
 - Kingshurst Junior School, Kingshurst, Solihull
 - Forest Comprehensive School, Nottingham

of these three schools, that any instant change of governorship or management would actually succeed in moving them off the list because progress has already been made. Frankly, it would be far

better to leave the existing team to do it."

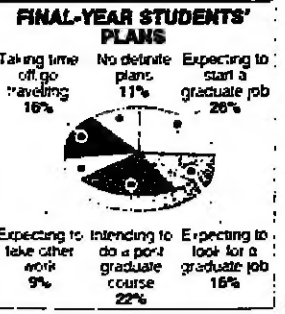
Battersea Technology College, in the London Borough of Wandsworth, was first inspected in December 1993 and has been failing longer

than any other school. Anthony Cole, its chairman of governors, said its recovery had been delayed by the appointment of an unsuitable head teacher. Only by last September did it complete its new team of

staff. "We are only at the end of our first year of having a brand new team in. It just takes a heck of a long time," Mr Cole said. "The easy thing to do would have been to close it down but that would not have helped the children because there are not other schools in the Battersea area to take them. A fresh start was effectively what we did."

The list of failing schools includes Dulwich High School for Boys in Southwark — the school that Harriet Harman, now Social Security Secretary, avoided by sending her son to a grammar school elsewhere.

Rough Hay Primary School in Darlington, Walsall, is also near the top of the list of schools that have been failing over the long term. Humphrey Smith, chief education services officer in Walsall, said: "We are of the view that significant progress has been made but there is not a universal magic formula for turning these schools around."



Graduates set sights lower in job market

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENTS are opting out of the race for a job despite a resurgence in the graduate employment market, according to research sponsored by *The Times*, which shows more than a quarter are heading towards finals with no plans for work.

One final-year student in six at 24 leading universities planned to take time off after graduation, usually to travel. One in nine had no definite plans three months before examinations began.

The research, published yesterday, surprised careers experts because it coincides with a 12 per cent rise in vacancies for graduates. The new openings were expected to trigger a rush of applications from students who have seen their predecessors struggling to find work.

In fact, fewer final-year undergraduates than last year expect to take up a permanent post after graduation. The survey, by High Fliers Research, shows that only 26 per cent expected a graduate job.

Martin Birchall, the survey director, said: "It seems that some students have picked up the message that there are more jobs about, so they can afford to sit back and concentrate on their finals. If that is the case, they are very misguided and could be in for a shock. There may be more jobs about but there are also more graduates."

More than 12,000 students, covering most leading universities, were interviewed for the report. They had realistic expectations of starting salaries: the average of £14,400 is close to firms' predictions of this year's national average.

Good University Guide, pages 40 and 41

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Kabila's forces exert iron grip on Zairean capital after downfall of despot Mobutu

Civilians of Kinshasa hail their new masters

FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

IN THE space of a weekend, everything has changed, and changed utterly. The country known as Zaire since 1971 is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The rebels, who on Thursday marched into the capital, Kinshasa, are no longer guerrillas but liberators. Laurent Kabila, their leader, is now head of state and President Mobutu, the reviled dictator of 32 years, is believed to have sought refuge in his northern ancestral home of Gbadolite.

The inhabitants of Kinshasa were ecstatic as thousands of Mr Kabila's fighters advanced through the streets yesterday and consolidated their hold on the city. Wearing white headbands, people lined the roadsides and danced in jubilation. "We are liberated, we are liberated," they shouted. "Vive Kabila!"

The invading soldiers had by yesterday morning taken Camp Tshashi, the final stronghold of the defeated Zairean Army, and were mopping up the last pockets of resistance. Mr Mobutu's palatial residence had also fallen, and a commandeer was racing around in the open-top Jeep from which the disgraced tyrant had once waved to the people.

Inside the palace, looters seized the passport and cosmetics of Bobi Mobutu, the deposed President's wife, and drugs for the treatment of his cancer but there was little else left. By last night, isolated incidents of revenge killings involving looters had left 17 dead, according to the Red Cross. There was widespread looting in the capital's suburb around Mr Mobutu's

residence but the mood was one of celebration rather than panic. Gunfire had again resounded around the city on Saturday night but by yesterday morning only occasional bursts of shooting could be heard as the new rulers fired in the air, trying to control the more exuberant excesses of the populace. "I'm tired but I'm happy," said one soldier carrying a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. "We've fought and we've come a long way."

The fighters who yesterday crossed the city in the direction of Camp Tshashi said they were 4,500 strong. They had come down the Congo River overnight by barge from the interior and were reinforcing the advance units which had entered the capital on Saturday from the east. Diplomatic sources estimate the force

which has captured Kinshasa at 10,000. They are well-armed with mortars, light machineguns and anti-tank weapons in addition to Kalashnikovs. Asked where he came from, one soldier said: "Uganda." Another spoke in Kikongo, the language of Rwanda. "We're from this country, Rwanda and Uganda," said another, countering claims by Zaire's eastern neighbours that they have not been involved in the civil war.

"I hope you're not from France," France supports Mobutu. "We don't want French troops in this country." In the seven months since they started their insurgency in the remote east of the country, the fighters of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-

Zaire have crossed 1,000 miles of bush and jungle. They have driven the demoralised Zairean armed forces to disarray before them. There has been little engagement apart from rare occasions on which Angolan, Serb and other mercenaries have made a stand against the advancing troops.

As the lines of soldiers moved through Embassy Row, residents came out with bottles of water and packets of breakfast cereal for the troops. Having assassinated the army chief, General Mahele Bolongo, at the approach of the rebels on Friday night, the elite Special Presidential Division failed to put up the fight that some had feared.

Western diplomats said that some score-settling by the new rulers was inevitable in the days ahead. "We haven't slept all night," said an older soldier yesterday morning. "But I've got to keep the men moving. The younger ones are tired but we're not finished yet. We're still looking for our enemy. A lot of them have kept their guns and are in their homes in civilian clothes." The truth is that the most sought-after and high-ranking government soldiers — men such as Kongolo Mobutu, the ousted President's son — have fled across the river into Brazzaville in neighbouring Congo. Control of Camp Tshashi was secured with little difficulty. Along the roadside near the military base, the conquering soldiers lounged,

weary but evidently flushed with triumph and enjoying some small spoils of their victory. Most of them had entered Kinshasa with their weapons as their only possessions. Some of them had marched in barefoot. All were hungry and thirsty.

Now they found themselves in the well-to-do Mont Ngaliema district, surrounded by more opulence than they had probably ever seen. The abandoned villas around them had once belonged to government ministers and members of Mr Mobutu's entourage. Teenage soldiers, some as young as 15, tinkered wonderingly with radios, cassette recorders and other electrical items that they had been unable to resist despite the prohibition on

looting. From one compound came the squeal of a pig as it was slaughtered: they had lit a fire in the front garden and were about to barbecue the animal. A young man plucked a chicken, declaring it would make a feast for himself and a comrade.

One group tried to overthrow government troops, discarding their own ragged and sweat-stained fatigues. But the greatest prizes seemed to be the smart army boots that they had found in Camp Tshashi.

Civilians streamed down the hill from the military camp, bearing their plunder aloft: chairs, telephones, computer keyboards, office files, whatever they had been able

to lay their hands on before Mr Kabila's troops had sealed it off. One young man carried a rumble dryer perched on his head.

"We looted everything," rejoiced a teenager. "Mobutu was a thief, he took everything from this country. These things belong to us."

In a government building, a crowd of chanting men ripped a portrait of Mr Mobutu from the wall and smashed it against a desk, as others ran about ransacking the offices.

In another part of town, the troops glutted themselves on bottles of wine and beer taken from the residence of Likulia Bolongo, the former Prime Minister, who has been evacuated by France. Tins of meat and vegetables were prized

open and poured down ravenous throats. "I don't have the words to explain how I feel," said one fighter in a Rwandan army uniform. "We've chased out Mobutu and liberated the country." Already the new flag of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with seven stars on a blue background, has started to flutter about the capital.

Responding to a call by Mr Kabila, thousands of former government troops presented themselves yesterday at designated assembly points to turn over their weapons.

A transitional "government of public salvation" is to be established by tomorrow and a multiparty constituent assembly in two months. Elections are due to be held within two years.



A soldier of Laurent Kabila's forces guards troops of the Zairean Special Presidential Division at the Kokolo camp in Kinshasa yesterday after their surrender

Fleeing clan face freeze in Europe

Geneva. The new leaders of Zaire were yesterday racing to block any assets belonging to former President Mobutu and his supporters around Europe after Switzerland froze the defeated clan's financial and property interests (see page 11).

Representatives of Laurent Kabila in Geneva were preparing to send a formal request for a financial freeze to Liechtenstein. Media reports suggested that Mr Mobutu would visit the small alpine financial haven before moving to France when parliamentary elections end there on June 1.

But Liechtenstein signalled to its Swiss and Austrian neighbours that the Mobutus would not be welcome.

Ghislain Demofike, a Kabila representative, said he hoped other European countries, including Austria, France and Germany, would follow the Swiss example. A legal request to block Mr Mobutu's French assets, including his villa on the Riviera, was expected within days. "France already promised impunity for Mr Mobutu, which is a rather casual approach by the current Government," he said.

Swiss bankers think that most of the alleged Mobutu fortune has left Switzerland by now.

Victor must move swiftly to build broad regime

BY SAM KILBY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

TAKING over a country the size of Western Europe in seven months was the easy part for Laurent Kabila. His battlefield success was due to his use of Tutsi shock troops from Uganda and Rwanda, and the nationwide disgust with the regime of President Mobutu. Now Mr Kabila, the self-appointed new President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), faces the Herculean task of legitimising a new administration before his Government begins to appear as an occupation force.

One of the first rebel soldiers to enter Kinshasa and take over the Voice of Zaire radio station at the weekend said yes, he had come a long way, he had come from Uganda. At least a third of the guerrillas snaking through the capital yesterday were unmistakably Tutsi, tall and mainly English-speaking — former members of the Ugandan and Rwandan armies.

Yesterday most residents of Zaire's capital were delighted that Mr Mobutu and his family had fled after 32 years of dictatorship. However, it will not be long before they take off the white headbands, which signal support for Mr Kabila's rebels, and begin to question whether they have swapped a local despot for a Ugandan viceroy.

A high-level delegation, possibly including Thabo Mbeki,

South Africa's Deputy President, was expected to fly to Zaire to meet its new President with this message: "Democratisation and make sure your new administration is broad-based."

President Mandela's efforts to persuade Mr Kabila not to attack Kinshasa collapsed in the face of the military reality. He knows enough about African politics, however, to say that a "transitional government", as promised on Saturday by Mr Kabila, must include a wide spectrum of political colours.

Mr Kabila, 38, a member of the Luba tribe's offshoot in Shaba province, has enormous personal credibility — he had been fighting the



Kabila takeover relied on foreign troops

Mobutu regime for 32 years. His potential weakness lies in having relied on foreign soldiers as the sharp end of what became a popular revolution.

A former Marxist and friend of Che Guevara, Mr Kabila has clearly given up the idealism of his youth. Before he took power he had already signed multimillion-dollar contracts with foreign mining companies to exploit Zaire's staggering mineral wealth.

But he may yet be tempted to over-centralise his Government, and rely too heavily on his Tutsi troops to enforce his will on Zaire's 250 ethnic groups. "That would be catastrophic for his regime and for Zaire. People will want more freedoms and a better administration, immediately," a European ambassador in Kinshasa said yesterday.

America, France and Belgium will be leaning on Mr Kabila to deliver on his promises of reform. Though potentially rich — Zaire harbours 60 per cent of the world's cobalt, as well as vast diamond, gold, copper and bauxite reserves — the country is in a state of absolute poverty.

Without substantial financial help from Western donors, Mr Kabila will not be able to restore roads, schools and hospitals or pay the army and civil servants, much less return living standards to the pre-independence levels that were eroded by Mr Mobutu's kleptocracy.

establish refugee camps for Hutus fleeing the new Tutsi-led Government in Kigali. Mr Mobutu, an international outcast at the time, was able to claim a measure of respectability as a result.

Paris yesterday avoided commenting on reports that Mr Mobutu plans to settle in France, where he has at least two luxury homes. "We don't have any information concerning the intentions of President Mobutu," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

France's influence in Africa has waned as that of the United States has grown. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, said on Saturday: "What's painful is that 20 years ago we solved all these problems and today everything happens without Europe or France being mentioned."

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BARCLAYS

Paris resigned to declining influence

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FRENCH politicians yesterday sought to duck responsibility for their country's role in Africa as critics denounced France's "outdated and unrealistic" attitude towards the continent.

The fall of President Mobutu has left Paris being awkward questions about its willingness to prop up almost any regime that is prepared to sustain French influence in Africa.

His reported flight to Morocco comes as France faces fresh embarrassment over the shadowy links between its biggest company, Elf-Aquitaine, and several francophone African states. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the former Socialist Defence Minister, said yesterday: "It's

time to turn over a new page in Franco-African relations."

French Foreign Minister, said: "President Mobutu is without doubt the only person capable of guaranteeing Zaire's territorial integrity."

French officials admit that Paris gave Mr Mobutu a lifeline in 1994 when it enlisted his help in a controversial humanitarian operation in Rwanda. After backing the Hutu regime responsible for the Rwandan massacres, France worked hand in hand with Mr Mobutu to

Mongolia lives with tainted dream of riches

President fights on reformist agenda

ROLLERBLADING school-children skim along the concrete of Ulan Bator's Sukhbaatar Square in front of the holy of holies of the former Communist regime — the mausoleum containing the bodies of the country's two official "liberators". Grim-faced Communist leaders once reviewed military parades from the rostrum, as in Moscow.

Now, in the middle of the square, named after the man who first established Communism here in 1921 — and died mysteriously soon afterwards — there is a demonstration by veterans demanding that their small pensions should keep pace with high inflation.

Running round the square are other children, spurred on by a brass band. On the periphery hover dirty, abandoned street children, who sleep underground.

On the west side is the imposing ochre building housing the stock exchange, facing the opera house where *Swan Lake* will play to a sparse audience — few can afford the tickets. The following night will bring Shakespeare in Mongolian: *Romeo and Juliet*. Towering over all this is the monolithic state house, where the Great Hural (parliament) has been dominated by Democrats since their surprise election victory last year.

The trappings of Communism are still to be found in Mongolia's capital, now more like the Gomorrah of the Gobi, James Pringle reports from Ulan Bator



These days, Ulan Bator, which means "Red Hero" and refers to Sukhbaatar, is a poor but lively city of 650,000, where half the population live in gers — felt tents. There are no plans to rename the city, despite the Communist connotations of its current name.

Nor are there any proposals to move the body of Choybalsan, Mongolia's Stalin who murdered up to 100,000 of his compatriots in the 1930s and 1940s, from the mausoleum. He is regarded, overgenerously in the view of some, as having helped to

preserve Mongolia's independence from the Soviet Union. Street photographers snap herders and their families from the Gobi or the Western mountains.

Most rural, and many urban, Mongolian men still wear the *del*, a high-collared coat, usually with a tribby hat, and boots with upturned pointed toes, to avoid offending the earth. Girls are just as likely to wear mini-skirts as the feminine version of the *del*. Some can be formidably fashionable.

The Ulan Bator Hotel, a Soviet edifice, is to the east of the square, behind Lenin Park. On previous visits during the 1970s and 1980s, I found it about the only place in the city with edible food and anything resembling a night-spot: a cavernous underground restaurant with an American jukebox on a stage. For a few *tugriks*, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr or Petula Clark would play.

As a China-based correspondent visiting Mongolia in



A Mongolian woman in Ulan Bator votes in yesterday's presidential election

the 1970s for some light relief from the Cultural Revolution, I recall sitting there with the then British Ambassador, John Colvin, and his wife, consuming bottled mutton, which seemed the staple. Our spartan meal was con-

stantly interrupted by young Russian squaddies in uniform, polite but insistent, asking Mrs Colvin to dance. Far from home, she represented an almost impossible glamour for the troops, on furlough from guard duty along the

Chinese border. Nowadays, the Russians are long gone. Nightlife in Ulan Bator, which could loosely be called a sort of Gomorrah of the Gobi, has changed dramatically from the days before 1921, when lamas ruled, and after, when

an outwardly austere form of Communism held sway. One can get in a battered old East German Trabant or Wartburg taxi and brundle off to a casino, where Mongolian high-rollers, mainly traders or cashmere dealers (most of whom drive Mercedes or BMWs), go to relax.

A French bistro, Oscar's, has opened north of the square, and elsewhere there are Japanese and Korean restaurants and an "art café" called the Manisse, with impressionist paintings on the walls, and a clientele of young Mongolian women affecting a bohemian air.

Ulan Bator these days is a late city, and it is pointless going out much before ten to bars like the Elvis Presley, or discos like Top Ten, where there are Russian women and Mongolian girls with dyed blonde hair, dancing the night away. To get into the discos, impoverished young Mongolians pool their funds, sit without a drink when not dancing, then walk home to their austere, often unheated, apartments.

When Mongolia abandoned Marxism in the early 1990s, there was talk of the country joining the "tiger" economies of Asia. Such dreams have not materialised. The word for tiger in Mongolia is "bar".

Ulan Bator: Mongolians went to the polls yesterday in a presidential contest seen as a neck-and-neck race between the nation's reformist leader and his challenger from the former Communist Party

Some voters arrived on horseback while others walked from their felt tents on outskirts of the capital. A smiling President Ochirbat cast his ballot and told voters they were making a crucial decision for the once-Communist nation. "The person who's elected will lead us into the next century," said the 5-year-old candidate of the Democratic Union Coalition as he and his wife, Tsedmaa, greeted voters.

His main opponent, Natsag Bagabandi, 47, of the opposition Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, has ruled for 75 years up to last year, has campaigned for a swing-down of economic reforms. He has tried to appeal to those who have been left jobless as Mongolia moves from Stalinist central planning to a market economy. (Reuters)

De Klerk heir quits Nationalists to form his own party

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IN A move signalling the biggest shake-up of South African politics since 1994's democratic elections, Roelf Meyer, the heir-apparent of F.W. de Klerk, the former President, resigned from the National Party at the weekend.

He vowed to establish a new opposition capable of breaking the African National Congress's stranglehold on the electorate.

His resignation was prompted by a damaging public fight with Mr de Klerk, which followed the emergence of clear divisions within the party that ruled South Africa between 1948 and 1994. The dispute arose over moves to attract wider support among the majority black electorate.

Mr Meyer told delegates at the party's Gauteng head council meeting in Pretoria on Saturday that he had been "effectively fired" because of differences with those resistant to change and other like-minded moderates are expected to follow his example.

After the mass resignation

of the party's "enlightened" leadership last year, the loss of Mr Meyer, its leading visionary, has stripped the mainly white party of its main hope of attracting significant black support to bolster its 16 per cent poll rating. Mr de Klerk cut a lonely figure at the weekend as he conceded that further resignations from the party are likely and he dismissed the idea that his party had lurched to the right as "a blatant lie".

A showdown in the party leadership was the inevitable conclusion of a power struggle that began last year when Mr de Klerk appointed Mr Meyer as the party's Secretary General. He was, however, forced to rescind the appointment this year under pressure from Hermus Kriel, the conservative Nationalist Premier of the Western Cape, and Martinus van Schalkwyk, Mr Meyer's rival for the party leadership, both of whom were suspicious of Mr Meyer's publicly stated intention of seeking a new political alignment. His rivals began increasingly to assert themselves and Mr Meyer's position became untenable when he recently rejected a call by Mr de Klerk to cease his talks with other parties.

Mr Meyer, who gained credibility with blacks as the Nationalists' chief negotiator at constitutional talks with the ANC, said at the weekend that he would not be joining another party but would build a new movement to fight for less crime, more jobs, compassion for the poor, and better education and tolerance.

"Those calling for rapid change [in the party] have been rebuffed," Mr Meyer said. "I know this is not the voice of the party."



Meyer wants more jobs and better deal for poor

Arafat begs Clinton to save peace process

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AFTER last week's failure of the second US peace mission to the Middle East inside a month, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has appealed to President Clinton to intervene personally to save the peace process from total collapse.

"Only your personal, official and immediate intervention will save the process," Mr Arafat wrote to the White House in an emotional letter, some of whose contents were made public here yesterday.

Mr Arafat, who is under growing pressure from Islamic hardliners and radical Palestinian nationalists to abandon what remains of the 1993 peace deal with Israel signed in Washington, also asked Mr Clinton to send Madeleine Albright, his new Secretary of State, on an urgent first mission to the region.

There has been a Palestinian whispering campaign against Dennis Ross, Mr Clinton's special envoy, whom the Palestine Liberation Organisation accuses of being biased towards Israel and unwilling to put pressure on Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Prime Minister, to halt work on the new Har Homa settlement in east Jerusalem. Bulldozers working at Har Homa were

prevented yesterday by an injunction taken out by the Israeli Antiquities Authority from doing more damage to the remains of a historic church linked to the Virgin Mary.

The authority discovered that the earth-moving to make way for homes for 32,000 Jews had damaged remains of the 5th-century Cathisma church, built to commemorate the spot where the Virgin Mary is believed to have dismounted en route to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus.

The Palestinian Cabinet has issued a strong warning that the relative calm of recent weeks could not survive a further stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, stalled since March 18.

Yesterday the atmosphere deteriorated further when Palestinian officials claimed that newly published Israeli plans to demolish 500 Palestinian houses on Israeli-occupied West Bank land amounted to a policy of "ethnic cleansing".

□ Guilty plea: Hassan Salameh, a leading guerrilla of the militant Hamas group, pleaded guilty in an Israeli military court yesterday to 46 counts of murder resulting from suicide bombings he plotted. (Reuters)

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Juppé heads for narrow poll win as Left falters

By ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRANCE'S ruling conservatives were narrowly ahead yesterday as the last opinion polls were published a week before parliamentary elections. They showed that the centre-right coalition of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is likely to retain a majority in the National Assembly, although it is expected to be sharply reduced.

The alliance between the Socialists, Communists and ecologists had gained, and a third of those polled said they might change their minds.

The Right was seen as winning between 300 and 340 seats to the combined Left's 210-250 in surveys of mainland France's 555 constituencies. Conservatives hold most of the other 22 overseas seats after winning 470 seats in a 1993 landslide.

Voters yesterday cast their ballots in French Polynesia, where the polls are held a week in advance because the islands are scattered over a

Pacific Ocean area the size of Europe. The law bans the disclosure of the results before the mainland vote.

The lacklustre campaign has failed to shake the scepticism of voters, who are doubtful that any side can solve the country's record unemployment. The campaign has focused on whether more austerity is needed to allow France to join the single European currency, or whether it may be relaxed to curb the 12.8 per cent unemployment.

Although French law bans opinion polls being published in the week before voting, it does not forbid them from being carried out or published abroad, and the Internet is expected to breach the curb.

According to a survey published yesterday by *Le Journal du Dimanche*, M Chirac's gamble in calling the snap election should pay off. It said the Gaullist-led coalition was unlikely to win a greater share of the vote in next Sunday's

first round than the Socialist-dominated opposition, but would emerge from the second round on June 1 with a parliamentary majority.

In calling the short campaign, M Chirac thought the electorate would be more interested in long weekends, the French football cup final, and the actress Isabelle Adjani, who presided over the Cannes Film Festival, than the political debate. This would thwart Socialist attempts to build up the head of steam needed to overturn the large centre-right majority.

However, he underestimated the extent of the apathy that M Juppé and his Socialist rival, Lionel Jospin, would generate — a miscalculation that leaves him facing a week of doubt.

Analysts say that the extreme-right National Front could benefit from widespread scepticism at the policies proposed by the mainstream political parties.



Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, tries to eliven the lacklustre election campaign near Toulouse yesterday. A week before polling, many voters are still undecided

Waigel's touch turns sacred gold to stone

Theo Waigel is a naturally humorous man whose robust wit derives from the hopelessness of his political position. In a tight corner he keeps his head and, as a result, he has also kept his job.

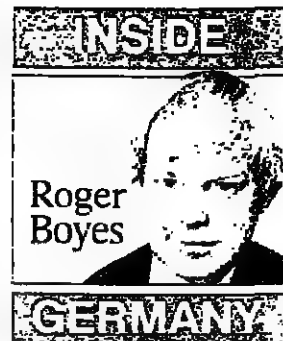
For the past eight years he has presided, as German Finance Minister, over increasingly messy public finances as unification upset all the usual assumptions about budgetary stewardship. The minister soldiers on but as an infantry man, with a backpack and mud up to his knees, rather than as a Bavarian hussar.

Herr Waigel claims our sympathy because none of his private or political successes has come easy. He is now happily married to a former skiing champion and has a young son. For years he was locked in a lame, difficult marriage and as a devout Catholic struggled to keep it alive. He is chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), an office that gives him more satisfaction than running the finances of Europe's most powerful nation. But he is constantly at

war with Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Premier. The CSU is trying to cling on to its absolute majority — but finds it difficult to do so with an unpopular Finance Minister who threatens to put up petrol tax (hurting Bonn commuters as well as the local car industry) and preaches the euro to sceptical farmers.

Now Herr Waigel is pivotal to the future of the European currency. The forecast of a £6.6 billion shortfall in tax revenue this year was a decisive moment. His normal reaction would have been to launch a new campaign of cuts, curbs and taxes. But he gave in to the temptation for a quick fix and may well have destroyed all public confidence in the euro.

His decision to raise the value of Bundesbank gold reserves has placed him in the role of Wagner's Alberich who takes the virgin Rhinegold to forge it into a ring. Herr Waigel is not stealing the gold — it belongs to the nation, not the Bundesbank — but he has touched on something mythical, something fundamental.



INSIDE
Roger Boyes
GERMANY

His other money-saving or revenue-raising schemes are also unpopular but there are often halms available to soothe wounds. Gold is different. It has been hoarded with the determination of a country transfixed by fear of inflation. Even now many elderly Germans have straps of gold coins hidden at home. The Bundesbank has breathed fire at any politician attempting to touch the gold. Herr Waigel, searching for the first important short cut in his career, has laid his hand on the metal and sooner or later it will turn into stone.

Almost everything the minister has done since flying to Frankfurt last Thursday has come out wrong. His performance in the Bundestag was weak. The argument that the gold was in any case destined for the European Central Bank has confirmed the worst suspicions of the beer drinkers in my overpriced local. There is now an indissoluble link in their minds between the snatched gold, the abandoned mark, a weak euro and a central bank bullied by the French.

We may now be at a turning point. In nine months we will look back and say, yes, that was the moment when the euro crumbled. The connection between the gold grab and the euro is not entirely logical, but this has nothing to do with syllogisms. It is about curses and atavistic fears.

Everybody in Bonn knows that Herr Waigel wants to be Foreign Minister. But Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, will not risk a reshuffle and so Poor Theo is strapped to his euro, for better or for worse.

Concert for peace divides Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE United Nations-sponsored pop concert in Nicosia today, designed to bring young Greek and Turkish Cypriots together after 23 years, has demonstrated just how deeply divided the island remains.

It has met such strident opposition from hardline groups that a third of the UN's 1,200-member peacekeeping force, including most of the British contingent, will police the event at a football stadium in the UN-controlled buffer zone.

Hundreds of Greek Cypriot motorists are planning a protest at a nearby venue. They have put up posters inviting people to "Come and spit at Sakis Rouvas", the young mainland Greek star who will be singing alongside Burak Kut, from Turkey, in what is expected to be the biggest gathering of Greek and Turkish Cypriots since the 1974 Turkish invasion split the island.

Leaflets appeared at the weekend on car windscreens in the Greek Cypriot south warning parents to keep their children at home. "If you want your children to become passive, homosexuals and organs of Turkish anti-Hellenic propaganda, send them to the concert." It added that the Grey Wolves, an ultra-right Turkish organisation, had

threatened to "drown the concert in blood", although diplomats said that there had been no such threat.

The leaflet was signed by "Evagoras", the name of an ancient Greek king who introduced the Greek alphabet to Cyprus. Some Turkish Cypriot press reports have also contributed to the scaremongering, talking of a "Greek Cypriot onslaught at the concert", while a far right group, Turk-Bir, issued a statement calling on its members not to attend.

Surprisingly, most hostility to the event has come from the Greek Cypriot side where the Government has been keen to promote the idea that the two communities can live peacefully together and, along with the powerful Communist Party and left-wing groups, has urged people to attend.

Turkish Cypriots, often prevented by their own authorities from attending bi-communal events, snapped up their allocation of 3,000 free concert tickets last week, but many from the Greek Cypriot side were returned to the UN.

"We know that there is huge interest among Greek Cypriots, but many have been frightened off by scare stories spread by rejectionists from their own side," said a European diplomat.

Arson attack on Pavarotti's Italian estate

Rome: A house on the country estate of Luciano Pavarotti was damaged by fire at the weekend, apparently in an arson attack (Richard Owen writes).

Police found the words "This is a warning" scrawled on the walls in red paint, but said it was not clear whether the message was intended for the tenor or an Italian rock musician who is renting the house.

The two-storey pink stucco building is part of a complex at Santa Maria Di Mugnano outside Modena. Signor Pavarotti's home town, which includes his equestrian



Pavarotti: "warning"

centre and recording studios. The house has been let for the past year to Umberto Maggi, former bass player with the Nomads, a popular Italian band, and former owner of a record company.

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Listening to the censor inside our heads

Researchers hope to shed light on the mysteries of the inner voice that allows us to 'talk' to ourselves, says Anjana Ahuja

Imagine arriving at a party and spying an attractive guest across the room. As you stare towards him or her, your brain is rapidly calculating how to make an introduction. In the space of a few steps, a voice inside your head will have dismissed most chat-up lines as too bold, too ghostly or too clichéd. As a result, the phrase that eventually falls from your lips is likely to be a crafted piece of wordsmanship — concise, sophisticated and socially appropriate for a first meeting.

This is an example of inner speech, a cognitive skill that allows us to "talk" to ourselves. We all have an inner voice — we "hear" it when we read prose or poetry; we can employ it to replay earlier arguments or conversations; we depend on it to prevent us from making tactless or witless remarks.

Inner speech is a sparsely studied phenomenon. It must be intimately bound up with concepts of memory, consciousness and language, which provide the focus for much modern scientific research. However, nobody really knows which cognitive processes allow us to "speak" in our heads and be conscious of it. Now two psychologists from Birmingham University hope to shed light on this mysterious inner voice.

Dr Linda Wheeldon and Dr Jane Morgan, from the university's School of Psychology, have been awarded £100,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council to investigate inner speech.

Their three-year study will be firmly rooted in linguistics. Dr Wheeldon contends that inner speech is generated by the same processes that produce normal speech — but the cogs stop somewhere short of the vocal chords. Her reasoning seems sound — the linguistic code we use to speak to ourselves is, in many ways, as rich as that which we use to speak to others. We use the same grammatical rules and syntax, and we can still impose stress and intonation on unspoken words.

It follows that the origins of inner speech should be the same as those for ordinary speech. Cognitive theories about how we speak break the

process down into four stages. The first thing we do is to decide on a message, says Dr Wheeldon. "For example, if someone asks how your weekend was, and it was awful, you would want to choose how best to convey that sentiment. You might just say 'It was awful', or you might say 'I fed the cat', which also conveys the impression of a dreadful weekend." Once a message has been chosen, the second stage is to "grammatically encode" it. This means retrieving the appropriate words, from a mental store of about 70,000, and arranging them in the right order.

The third stage is to think about the sound of each word. The fourth stage is to instruct muscles to articulate the finished phrase or sentence. Dr Wheeldon thinks that inner speech conforms to this model, but the process is cut off before the last stage of the plan, speaking, can be executed.

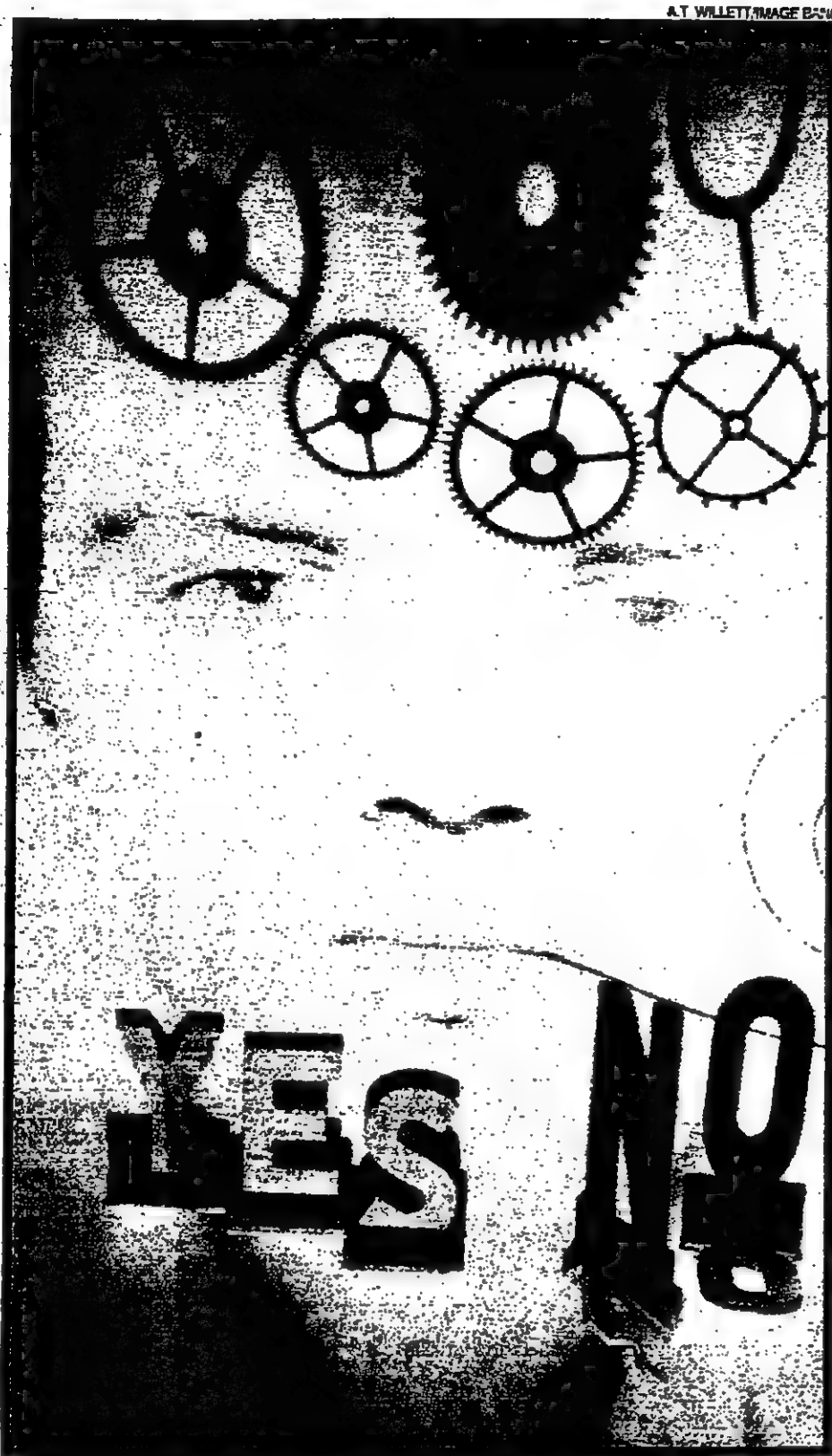
We can correct slips of the tongue before they come out

Dr Wheeldon hopes to map the time course of this process by getting volunteers to generate and listen to their own internal speech. One experiment will involve flashing up pictures of objects. Volunteers will then be asked to press a button when the object name generated in their head contains a target sound.

For example, if the target sound is a hard "c", and the volunteers are shown a picture of a candle, they would press the button. They would then be tested for all the other consonant sounds in the word "candle", such as "n" and "d". By measuring how fast they press the button for each sound, the researchers can work out how quickly volunteers generate the word "candle" in their heads. Previous evidence suggests that when faced with such a task, volunteers do not visualise the word in their mind's eye; instead, their inner voice "says" it.

It is clear that we are mostly conscious of what we are about to say. "This ability allows us to stop ourselves from making inappropriate remarks, or committing faux pas," says Dr Wheeldon. "We can correct slips of the tongue before they come out."

This consciousness, or awareness, as the researchers prefer to call it, has been



Multiple choices: before you speak, your inner voice rapidly calculates possible answers

highlighted in an amusing experiment at California State University. Volunteers were given a list in which pairs of words featured. The volunteers had to read the words out as accurately as possible. The mischievous experimenters had, however, included pairs of words which would prove embarrassing if misread. Examples are "hit shed", "tool kits", "heap chore" and "duck fate". Transposing the first letters of these words would

have caused the volunteers to make "taboo errors".

"The volunteers were much less likely to make taboo errors than other types of mistakes," says Dr Wheeldon. "Remember, these were the sort of phrases that most people would not be happy to say during an experiment. The surprising thing was that many people made a partial correction to their mistake and, therefore, turned a taboo error into a safe partial one. They must have been aware they were about to utter something vulgar."

Dr Wheeldon is fascinated by our ability, exposed by that experiment, to monitor and correct our inner speech. Moreover, the way we check our inner speech for syntax, words, appropriateness, sound errors and slips of the tongue — mirrors the way we listen to other people's utterances. Thus, she posits, inner speech flows, via an internal loop, into the same cognitive circuit which handles the comprehension of external speech.

Dr Wheeldon hopes that their investigations will illuminate new aspects of speech production and comprehension. "Inner speech is one of the few linguistic codes of which we all have awareness," she says.

"And we use it in a range of cognitive tasks other than the planning of speech. It plays a role in reading, writing and memorising words. This work might help us to understand it a little more."

THE TIMES
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☐ Gamma rays ☐ Feeling low ☐ Alcoholic mice

The energy makers

FOR MORE than 20 years, gamma ray bursts have been one of the most perplexing problems in astronomy. First detected accidentally in 1973 by US satellites whose real task was to monitor nuclear tests from space, they are intense bursts of energy, lasting from fractions of a second to several hours.

They occur with great regularity, at the rate of about two a day. But their origin has been a mystery. It was impossible even to say whether they came from within the Milky Way, or from an extremely remote object billions of light years away.

Now observations from an Italian/Dutch satellite launched last year have given some clues about these events, which release as much energy in a single burst as our Sun will produce in its entire life. The satellite provides a rapid and accurate position in the sky for the source of the gamma rays, enabling astronomers to point telescopes at the same place and try to identify objects that may be the source.

In April, an international team, including astronomers from Cambridge, was able to report the first identification after tracking a burst that occurred at the end of February to a distant object, apparently located within a galaxy. But some doubt was cast on this conclusion when the Hubble Space Telescope examined the object and failed to show the fuzziness that would confirm that it was indeed a galaxy.

Last week, a team from the California



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Institute of Technology was able to locate the source of a burst detected on May 8. Within a few hours they were looking for the object with the telescopes at Mount Palomar. They found a starlike object which was changing brightness in an unusual way, and on May 11, using the world's largest telescope, the Keck instrument on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, they were able to measure the light spectrum from clouds of material lying between us and the object. This enabled the distance to the clouds to be calculated, and showed them to be several billion light years away. The object must be even further, about seven billion light years away. Radio emissions from the object have also been detected.

For the first time, therefore, we know for certain that gamma ray bursts are not local objects. That makes the energy they produce even more extraordinary: for a few seconds, the May 8 object burned a million times brighter than an entire galaxy.

The Caltech team was ecstatic. Said Professor Mark Metzger: "When I finished analysing the spectrum and saw features, I knew we had finally caught it. It was a stunning moment of revelation. Such events happen only a few times in the life of a scientist." The new results appear to prove that gamma ray bursts are not local events, but they do not tell us what they are. Favourite theories include the collision between two neutron stars, or a neutron star being swallowed by a black hole.

Serotonin linked to female depression



CANADIAN researchers from McGill University in Montreal may have discovered why women are twice as likely as men to suffer from depression and ten times as likely to develop eating disorders.

In a small-scale study, they showed that women make the chemical serotonin — linked to mood and appetite — in their brains more slowly than men.

They put eight men and seven women volunteers on a low-protein diet supplemented with a chocolate syrup laced with all essential amino acids except tryptophan, which is converted metabolically into serotonin. At the same time, they injected the volunteers with minute quantities of a radioactively labelled form of tryptophan, and then gave them a tablet of normal tryptophan. Both were converted into serotonin, and, using a brain scan to detect the tracer, researchers showed that this conversion occurred 50 per cent faster in men.

Neurologist Dr Mirko Diksic of McGill says the sluggish production of serotonin may explain the sex differences. Others feel the small study needs to be confirmed.

The drinks are on the mouse



THREE genes that make mice into alcoholics have been mapped for the first time. The researchers responsible from Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, say that the results tie in with earlier studies on human alcoholics and may help target treatment.

Reporting in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, the team says the mice carrying particular genetic regions on chromosomes 1, 4 and 11 suffered greater withdrawal symptoms when denied alcohol than did mice with different genes. "By zeroing in on the genes that govern physical dependence on alcohol in mice, we can now locate the chromosome regions that carry human versions of these," says Professor Karl Buck, lead author in the study. The gene regions in the study appear to correspond to regions of human chromosomes 1 and 5, and could also be involved in drug addiction, he believes.

"This new information should result in targeting of treatment to the most appropriate populations at risk as well as providing insights into possible preventive medical interventions," says Professor Buck.

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STARTING TODAY
PAGES 40, 41

In a new book, *We All Shine On*, rock writer **Paul Du Noyer** offers a comprehensive insight into the stories behind John Lennon's most moving songs

There is only one story behind John Lennon's songs — the story of his life. He described songs as "being like handwriting" because even a shopping list on a scrap of paper might reveal the personality of its creator. In the same way, music speaks to us about the person who wrote it. In Lennon's case that's doubly true — he approached his songs as if they were the instalments of an autobiography. There are lots of books about the Beatles' music. What is often overlooked is the superb solo work that Lennon produced in the final years of his life. It's a shame that the end of the Beatles' career and his murder in 1980, Lennon kept on writing dreams. There is no finer way of reliving John Lennon's story than through his music.

IMAGINE

PAUL McCARTNEY's *Let It Be* and Paul Simon's *Bridge Over Troubled Water* had, almost simultaneously, struck a pseudo-religious note in the 1970 hit parade. John was openly contemptuous of *Let It Be*, but he was to write the third of these definitive rock hymns himself. *Imagine* is probably the most widely revered of all John's songs, including those by the Beatles. Here, at least, he benched Paul, whose solo work would never surpass a song like *Yesterday* in popular affections.

The restless opening notes of *Imagine* still strike a deep chord in people of all beliefs. Strangely, not even its explicitly religious message has stopped the song becoming a favourite at modern-minded religious events.

But the currents that run through *Imagine*'s lyrics are muddy, as was Lennon's faith to the Christian faith he was raised in. "I'm a most religious fellow," he told *Playboy* in 1980. "I only now understand some of the things that Christ was saying in those parables." As a child he attended Sunday school and sang in the choir. Christian hymns would have been his first formal engagement with music, just as the Christian God was the first philosophical concept he had to wrestle with. Therefore the church-like tenor of *Imagine* was natural for him, especially as he composed it on the piano rather than the guitar. And the subjects it covers — from the existence of God downwards — were themes that nagged at him for years.

We are asked to imagine a universe *sans* heaven or hell, and a world where people live for the day instead of for the

afterlife. Religion, like nationhood, is cited as a cause of conflict. Can we imagine ourselves without them, or material possessions, and living in global harmony? He had ended his previous album by declaring that "the dream is over." He begins this one by announcing a new dream, and inviting us to share it. There was something clairvoyant, too, in John's critique of national boundaries. The US immigration service would become the bane of his life, and the fight for US citizenship his longest-running battle.

Yoko Imagawa has his origins in Grapefruit, published in 1964. In it, Yoko begins each poem with a similar invocation. Thus, *Tunafish Sandwich Piece* starts: "Imagine one thousand suns in the sky at the same time . . ." *Rubber Piece* begins: "Imagine your body spreading rapidly all over the world like a thin tissue . . ." And *Cloud Piece* is quoted on the album sleeve: "Imagine the clouds dripping. Dig a hole in your garden to put them in." John would later say that Yoko was "the first to tell me Yoko a co-writer credit for the song. But, he told Playboy: 'I wasn't man enough . . . I was still full of wanting my own space after being in a room with the guys all the time, having to share everything.'"

The second source of inspiration was a prayer book given to John by the US comedian, Dick Gregory. Advocating "positive prayer," it advised that to receive anything from God, we must first imagine it for ourselves. This idea impressed John greatly. The day before he died he was still expounding "projection of our goals." If we wish for a positive future we should exert

our mental energy and visualise one. In 1980 he observed how this idea, once considered wacky, was being adopted by everyone from business organisations to sports stars. If we conceive the future as violent, we run the risk of creating precisely that.

Sitting in the spacious white music room of his English manor, imagining "no possessions", Lennon was soon accused of hypocrisy. But his Utopian dream tapped a vast reservoir of feeling in the post-war world. The song has become a standard. John's own opinion was typically

perverse. He stood by John Lennon/*Plastic Ono Band*, believing it more "real" than anything else he had done. But the softer tones of *Imagine* represented compromise, or even sell-out. "*Imagine* was a sincere statement," he told *NME's* Roy Carr in 1972. "It was Working Class Hero with chocolate on. I was trying to think of it in terms of children." When Paul McCartney was so incautious as to praise *Imagine*, Lennon fired back: "So you think *Imagine* ain't political?" It's *Working Class Hero* with sugar for conservatives like yourself."

For all its "chocolate-coated" arrangements, *Imagine* has its share of vitriol, and the bitterest song of all was John's blatant assault on Paul McCartney, *How Do You Sleep?* Amid the legal smoke enveloping the defunct Beatles, relations between the old friends had sunk to an all-time low. In May, a month before the *Imagine* sessions, Paul released his second solo album, *Ram* — replete, John thought, with attacks on him and Yoko.

True, the cover includes a photo of two beetles, arguably "screwing" one another. And the music opens with Paul, apparently crooning an obscenity. But to most people the *Ram* lyrics were innocuous and vague. Whatever McCartney's intentions, however, there was to be no such obscenity in John's counter-attack. *How Do You Sleep?* really took the gloves off. Drenched in a deceptively gentle string setting, the song begins with a parody of Sgt. Pepper's opening and proceeds to lambast McCartney as a baby-faced lightweight, a man who "lives with straighties" who fawn on him, and a writer whose only achievement was *Yesterday*. "Since you're gone," sneers John "you're just Another Day."

There is something almost endearing in the way that the *Imagine* album can

HOW DO YOU SLEEP?



McCartney: no musical retaliation

supposedly revealing that McCartney was an impostor, the real Beatle having died in a 1966 car crash. This elaborate rumour enjoyed a wide circulation. Why, for example, did Paul's Sgt Pepper costume include a badge saying "OPD"? Surely it stood for "Officially Pronounced Dead"? (Alas for conspiracy theorists, that OPD badge came from the Ottawa Police Department.)

Photographer Kieron Murphy, who was present at the session, recalls there being no discussion of the song's lyric. "He was literally making the album up as he went along. I thought at first it was a slag off of the fans because the first line is 'So Sergeant Pepper took you by surprise'. But it began to click when he sang, the only good thing you did was *Yesterday* and so on."

The track aroused instant controversy. *Rolling Stone* condemned it as "horrifying and indefensible... a song so spiteful and self-indulgent that it sanctified the victim and demeaned the accuser." McCartney refrained from any musical retaliation. But he did comment, "I think it's silly. So what if I live with straights? I like straights. I have straight babies. It doesn't affect him. He says the only thing I did was *Yesterday*. He knows that's wrong. He knows and I know that's not true."

JEALOUS GUY

Jealousy began its life a few years earlier as *Child Of Nature*, but was not used by the Beatles. Perhaps it clashed with Paul's title, *Mother Nature's Son*, which was unveiled at the same session and duly appeared on the group's *White Album*. *Jealousy* in its briefest form was keynoted by John's maturing outlook, expressing his rejection of the macho values he had grown up with. In later interviews, he was frank about his violent tendencies, although he believed he had brought that side of his nature under control. In his youth he fought often. Indeed some of his earliest press coverage arose from an incident at John's 21st birthday party in Liverpool when John attacked his old friend, the Cavern DJ, Bob Wooler, who had accused John of a gay encounter with their manager, Brian Epstein.

Worse yet, John confessed he had long viewed towards women. He told *Playboy*, "I was a hater. I couldn't express myself and I hit. That is why I am always on about peace." Jealousy was the usual reason for his outbursts, a tendency revealed in his Beatle song *Run For Your Life*, in which he describes himself as a "wicked guy" with "a jealous mind", before taking a line from his hero Elvis Presley's *Baby Let's Play House*, when he warns his girl he'd rather see her

dead than with another man.

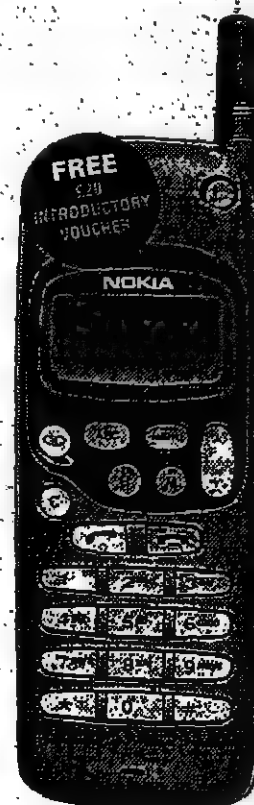
Jealous Guy begins with a suggestion that John's latest transgression is a lapse into his bad old ways, born of his insecurity. His relationship with Yoko was always stormier than the couple preferred to indicate — it is said he made her list her former lovers, and resented her knowing Japanese because it removed so much of her consciousness from him. But in *Jealous Guy*, one of his most persuasive melodies, the eloquence of John's repentance carries all before it.

JOHN'S first wife Cynthia saw plenty of John's volatility during their early courtship, but she doubts that he ever loved her equally, nor needed to. "He was really never a macho working-class man," John. I think his talents went above and beyond that. He was like a chrysalis. He tended to try to look like the tough guys so that the tough guys wouldn't pick on him. What John became was what John really was."

In the melancholy winter months after John's death, Roxy Music's sensitive reading of *Sealous Guy* became a worldwide hit, one of the finest musical tributes ever paid to its composer.

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Lennon, a "jealous guy", even when with the Beatles

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For a while, a couple of years ago, Marks & Spencer was the height of chic and it was a joy to discover that the only difference between the store's clothes and designer labels was the position of the decimal point on the price ticket

How Marks lost its sparks

Why does nobody talk about Marks & Spencer any more? Two years ago, the fashion world could talk of nothing else. The camel cashmere peacoat, the Tactel body in every conceivable colour and the stretch jodhpurs were spoken of in the same hushed tones as a Prada bag. This was usually followed by a shrill: "Twenty-nine ninety-five" — for some reason, it was impossible to whisper the price.

Yet now there is silence. When did you last hear someone chic boast of finding the perfect shirt in Marks & Spencer? When did you last notice anything from the store in a glossy magazine?

As time goes by, Vogue's "Gospel According to St Michael", published in April 1995, sounds increasingly like an apocryphal tale. Go into the average regional store and it looks like a downright untruth. The most cutting-edge items are simple jersey pieces designed in conjunction with Benny Jackson — scarcely one to shock even in her own collection.

The "basics", which so recently had fashion editors swooning, no longer seem to have that nearly-Donnatella-Karan edge. And though there are a few high-fashion items in the collection they can be found in only a handful of stores. In short, the chain is

Two years ago fashion editors were eulogising on the chain store's new chic — but all that has gone, reports Style Editor Grace Bradberry

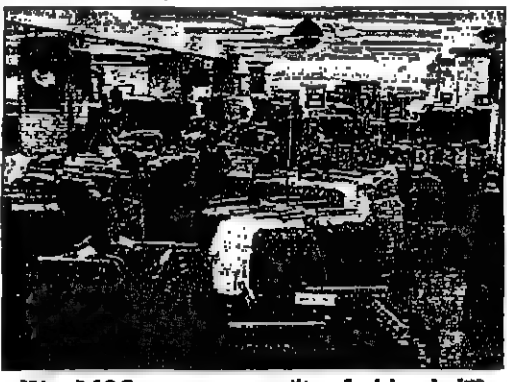
returning to its suburban roots.

At first, it seems incredible that this could have been allowed to happen. When Marks & Spencer first got its act together back in 1992 and 1993, many of us wondered why on earth it hadn't caught on sooner. With a strange hold on British manufacturing, and the power to buy good fabrics cheaply and in bulk, it seemed inevitable that it should play designers at their own game for a fraction of the price. A simple body, a simple dress, that was what everyone wanted: and if it was so simple, why did it have to cost so much? Suddenly it didn't.

In September 1993, *The Sunday Times Magazine* devoted a fashion spread to the store. Marks & Spencer, it said, had "got" fashion in a big way. "Now if we do a long skirt it's really a long skirt," declared the design director Brian Godbold. "We aim to make definitive pieces rather than watered-down versions."

The following year, the company hired Linda Evangelista to prove the point. Patrick Demarchelier's picture of her in thigh-length black socks, a black mini-skirt and a black polo-neck came to symbolise the new Marks & Spencer.

In the same year Anna Harvey, deputy editor of *Vogue*, and Kate Reardon, style editor of *Tatler*, were among those who appeared in a newspaper feature, which eulogised the St Michael label.



Was M&S womenswear "too fashion-led"?

Elsewhere, anyone who was anyone seemed to drop little hints that Marble Arch, not Brompton Cross, was the "in" place to shop. Lynne Franks, a designer-label junkie, was reported to have said that she didn't bother to go anywhere else because you could now get "everything you could ever need under one roof". Even Karen Finley, a New York conceptual artist, made it clear she could scarcely spare time for a *Guardian* interview because she wanted to get in Marks & Spencer.

Really, it was a joy to discover that the only difference between Marks & Spencer and designer clothes was the position of the decimal point on the price ticket.

You won't hear any such thing now. Yet the reason for this is not as simple as Marks & Spencer losing its way, or the fashion world finding new heroes. In truth, it is hard to say whether the fashion crowd has abandoned Marks & Spencer, or Marks & Spencer them. If this sounds mad, then it is worth referring back to the company's annual meeting of

July 1996. Questioned about womenswear marketing, Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, conceded: "We were possibly too fashion-led in the spring." In effect, Sir Richard was dismissing not only the *Vogue* feature of April 1995, but the whole glossy strategy of the company that year. To thousands of metropolitan women it had seemed quite brilliant. But Rochdale woman had thought differently.

It was no coincidence that by the time Sir Richard made his statement to the AGM, Gillian Wheatcroft, the head of PR for the last five years, had left to work elsewhere. It was she who had brought about the Evangelista campaign, and had helped fashion writers to fall in love with Marks & Spencer.

Ms Wheatcroft was aided, of course, by a great product. But her legendary generosity may also have helped. If, for example, a fashion shoot stylist failed to return the odd item, it was unlikely an invoice would be sent.

One insider, a magazine journalist, says: "Tragically I was never a beneficiary of her generosity but I heard talk for years of it going on." She adds, however: "The clothes have lost it, although the pieces that appeared in all the magazines were often only available in Marble Arch."

This may be another key to Marks & Spencer's apparent volte-face. With a few notable exceptions, such as the chenille jumper which was such a big hit in autumn 95, the high fashion pieces could never sell in large numbers. Making smaller numbers of a wider range of styles is not the best way to make money. To sell something across a wide age and geographical range, the fashion edges often have to be knocked off.

"I think Marks is very canny about the way it judges the fashion content," says Richard Perks, senior retail analyst at Verdict, the retail consultancy. "It keeps up with the fashions without being very fashionable, and produces a smaller number of different styles which it retails in high volume."

It may seem odd that Marks & Spencer is downplaying its fashion content just as Dorothy Perkins, for example, is wheeling in the design team Clements Ribeiro to produce a collection. According to Richard Perks however, "The chain causing Marks & Spencer the most grief is Next, which has brought its prices down to Marks's level." There are no designer link-ups at Next.

Even if the company were still producing the to-die-for little pieces that it once did, it is unlikely that it would be as talked about. For one thing, fashion is no longer obsessed with all things "simple" and "classic".

A new mood of bohemianism has swept through the British scene and the emphasis is now on stunningly impractical pieces — Dolce & Gabbana's leopard-print chiton coat, Clements Ribeiro's loud flowery dresses. Reject this eclectic boho look and the alternative is minimalism, but the shrink-wrap jersey look so in vogue at the moment is surprisingly difficult to enu-

late compared with its early-Nineties equivalent.

Before, the important thing was to get "the uniform" — but to do so at bargain prices. In the midst of the recession it was simply not done to boast of forking out for designer labels. But with the economic upturn, conspicuous spending

is back. Hunting for something similar at cut-price is once again naff — much better to go to Portobello market and find something different altogether.

Of course, the fashion puck would still like to be able to buy flat-fronted trousers just like the Joseph ones for a

quarter of the price. They are just not going to shout about it any more. Unsurprisingly, Marks & Spencer is not therefore going to produce them.

Spurned by those who so recently canonized him, St Michael, it seems, has gone back to watching over Turnbridge Wells.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

Cross-channel currents: swinging Paris meets London in a new exhibition at the Brighton Festival
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ THEATRE

Sebastian Barry, Irish dramatist of the moment, premieres his new play, *Prayers of Sherkin*, at the Old Vic
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ OPERA

In Cardiff, Welsh National Opera unveils David Pountney's new production of *Simon Boccanegra*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ POP

Introspection and melancholia are on the menu as Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds play the Albert Hall
GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

VISUAL ART: Collector, writer and occasional pop star David Bowie is now in publishing. Isabel Carlisle finds out why



David Bowie: "In the Sixties I realised there was another thread of art history in ideas rather than in representation"

It has become a cliché to say that David Bowie has reinvented himself so often that it's hard to get a grip on the real man. From Ziggy Stardust to Thin White Duke, from Rock God to art world celebrity, change itself appears an essential ingredient of his life. Yet there are constants, and art is one of them — not least, as he explains, because Marcel Duchamp and his legacy showed him the enormous creative potential of breaking down boundaries and venturing into new territory. Bowie as post-Modern man might well be the ultimate persona.

Tomorrow sees Bowie venturing into art book publishing with the launch in London of a new company called 21 and of its first book, *Blimey! From Bohemia to Britpop: The London Artworld from Francis Bacon to Damien Hirst*. The company is a co-venture managed and backed by Bowie. Sir Timothy Sainsbury (supermarket magnate and a sponsor of the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing), gallery-owner Bernard Jacobson, and the editor of the art magazine *Modern Painters*, Karen Wright. "It's called 21 for the 21st century," says Bowie, and future plans include monographs on Jackson Pollock and the St Ives artist, Peter Lanyon.

"Art is not elite any more," Bowie explains. "We want to keep the writing accessible — the same number of people that go to rock concerts go to museums and galleries."

The four backers make it clear that they are not out to take on the art publishing giants such as Phaidon or Thames and Hudson, but rather to publish work they believe in. Wright says: "Small publishing houses are rapidly disappearing; we have a chance to do things that might not get through big committees."

Hot art gossip by Bowie

Britpop is a highly readable and gossip account of the young London art scene. Its author, Matt Collings, writes a regular diary of his artworld encounters and musings for *Modern Painters* in a style that resembles an impetuous, streetwise Gertrude Stein. He opens his new book with: "Hello Reader! I went to Quo Vadis the other night. That's the well-known restaurant in Dean Street that Damien Hirst recently redesigned. Now it's full of art by young people who are in *Vogue* and on TV all the time. Are they any good?"

"Gossip is really important," says Bowie. "It is what we do all the time. It's the pivot of our interaction with each other. In the Sixties a historical overview emerged which was more attuned to individuals than to patronage. This way of thinking, of which gossip is a part, is breaking down the barriers between the art forms — it's the way life in the 21st century should go." On Collings's book, Bowie says: "It is the late 20th century observed not by an intellectual but by a burglar's torch." Wright adds: "Using

large pictures of artists and small pictures of the works cocks a snook at traditional art publishing."

Bowie first met Bernard Jacobson when he went into his gallery to look at paintings by the British artist David Bomberg to add to his art collection. "My collection is 80 per cent British art," says Bowie. "I also have works by Reg Butler, William Turnbull, Augustus John, Wyndham Lewis, Paolozzi, John Bellamy, the crazy pop Dadaist Clive Barker, as well as a couple of pieces by Damien Hirst, Sarah Lucas and Gary Hume." A friendship developed and Jacobson, who co-founded *Modern Painters*, encouraged him to write for the magazine.

An interview with Baltimore was the first piece Bowie did for *Modern Painters* in 1994. Published verbatim, it took up 20 pages and established Bowie's credentials as someone who knows about art and had read a great deal about it and took it seriously. Since then Bowie has appeared in its pages alongside writers such as Patrick Heron, Richard

Wolheim, Bryan Robertson and David Sylvester, and in 1994 he was brought on to the editorial board. Bowie contributed a piece on the black American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's exhibition was at the Serpentine Gallery, and subsequently played Andy Warhol in the film about Basquiat's life made by the New York artist, Julian Schnabel.

Bowie has collected art ever since he could afford it, when spare cash no longer had to be spent on plectrums and guitar strings. "German Expressionist woodblock prints and bits by Picabia, Man Ray and Duchamp were the first things I bought and they influenced me enormously. For *Ziggy Stardust* the combination of images, its randomness and confusion, was taken from Dada while the staging came from German Expressionism and film makers of that period such as Fritz Lang and Pabst. The very extreme white lighting was trying to recapture the feel of Lang's *Metropolis*," he says.

Bowie found art a model not just for what could be achieved, but for how it could be achieved. "In the Sixties I digested everything and it was a very formative period because I realised that there were no boundaries — there was another thread of art history in ideas, rather than in representation. I found Duchamp and his school so exciting. It was as if they were saying, 'I defy you to come to terms with this idea.' That made everything seem possible. Rock, too, was about interacting different attitudes. When a child puts its nose to the edge of an open door, and looks on both sides at once, that's how I feel."

CONCERTS: Gatti with flu; Russians in Birmingham

Solid sound under strain

ROYAL Philharmonic banners fluttering in the breeze proclaim the Royal Albert Hall as its London home, and certainly the orchestra seems to have settled down there. Under its music director Daniele Gatti it is turning out solidly crafted, occasionally inspired, performances.

That Wednesday night's concert exemplified the former rather than the latter might have been due to the indisposition of Gatti. In spite of suffering from influenza, he conducted the concert, though cancelled the discussion due to have taken place afterwards. There seemed a sense of lethargy in his readings of Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel* and Mahler's Symphony No 1. Certainly the Strauss went through the motions of the programme but it was not storytelling of a kind where one hung on every word. If the climactic moments of the Mahler were worth waiting for, there could have been more zest injected into the parody band music of the funeral march. The lilting trio of the second movement, however, was done with tasteful glissandi and well-judged rhythmic hesitations.

RPO/Gatti
Albert Hall

There is no such thing as a divine right in music. I suspect that, as the present senior member of a distinguished musical dynasty, Pavel Kogan, the chief conductor of the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, thinks there is. But as the son of a great violinist he should also know that Dmitri Kogan, his own son and Leonid Kogan's grandson, has no right at this stage in his career to be playing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto on an international concert platform (and so should IMG Artists, which must surely be expected to exercise a strict quality control on behalf of the venues which buy into the tours it promotes). Before coming to Symphony

Hall in Birmingham 18-year-old Dmitri had played in Coventry, Cardiff and Nottingham, and it could be that he did all these perfectly well, but I seriously doubt it. He has obviously been through some rigorous drilling and he did manage some of the virtuoso passages impressively enough, not least the double-stopped arpeggios and bravura runs in the coda of the last movement. But in matters of melodic phrasing, rhythmic subtlety, expressive colouring, identification of and commitment to the composer's emotional and structural purpose at any given point — not to mention consistency in intonation and keeping in time with the orchestra — I have never

heard a performance as clumsy and as uncomprehending as this one. The audience, I should add, was ecstatic. Having selected four items from Khachaturian's concert suites, with the evident intention of combining the most exotic elements of the ballet with the most popular, Pavel Kogan produced scarcely one authentic thrill. His treatment of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* at the beginning of the concert, though heavily over-coloured by percussion, was more effective. But his interpretation of Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony entirely missed the composer's exquisitely ironic point.

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Why water prices must not fall

Environmentalists and suppliers have the same aims, write Brian Duckworth and Simon Lyster

Environmental groups and water companies do not often stand shoulder to shoulder. But today we do. The new Government is hosting a "Water Summit", and the water company Severn Trent and the Wildlife Trusts are united about what needs to be done.

The key to water sustainability — meeting society's needs for water without damaging the environment — is partnership. The Government has recognised this, and we welcome today's meeting as a first step towards getting politicians, regulators, water companies, environmentalists and consumers to tackle the problem together. Environmental groups can use their influence to help water companies promote wise use of water, and the water industry must hoist the environmental banner too.

Per capita demand for water in Britain has almost doubled over the past 40 years and the signs are that it will carry on rising. However, some water supplies have come under pressure in the recent drought years, and if climate change predictions are right there will be even less water available, at least in the southern half of Britain, in 15 or 20 years' time.

But it would be both socially inequitable and a waste of resources to require immediate metering everywhere. Water usage in inner city flats is low compared to consumption in suburbs characterised by larger homes with garden sprinklers. Metering should be targeted where it will have most impact.

The Government and the water industry have a responsibility to promote a whole range of water-efficiency devices from low-flush toilets and water-efficient domestic appliances to garden water-burners and trickle irrigation systems. And environmental groups such as the Wildlife Trusts must join the campaign to encourage the public to use less water.

But even if all this is done, the industry will need to plan imaginatively and invest heavily to meet both human and environmental needs in the next century. Climate change predictions suggest that the once-in-250-years drought of the 1990s could be occurring one year in three by 2050. We are likely to see heavier winter rainfalls and drier, warmer summers. Making better use of the winter rains will help us to maintain rivers and wetlands during drier summers.

We need to agree a strategy to reverse the growth in water usage

Severn Trent already has a policy of taking water from rivers at times of high flow so that it can use stocks from reservoirs when flow levels are lower. This is good for the environment, but costly. It also requires more water storage. Yes, we may well need to build more reservoirs. But if properly planned and sited, reservoirs can enhance the environment.

We shall need an efficient system of sub-regional grids to take water where it is needed most, but we must take care not to use rivers or wetlands for the transfer of water with characteristics different from those occurring naturally. It would be highly damaging, for example, to transfer naturally acidic water via chalk streams, or vice versa.

Our fundamental contention is that there can be enough water for both people and wildlife in Britain, and that as a society we should demand nothing less. But it will require continuing investment to achieve. That is why it would be ridiculous for the regulator and the Government to insist on water price reductions in the next few years. Customers are telling the water companies that they will not tolerate water restrictions in the future. We must, therefore, do everything we can to meet the needs of water-users and the environment. The environment would be the loser if price reductions were forced on the industry and investment cuts had to be made.

Brian Duckworth is managing director of Severn Trent Water. Dr Simon Lyster is director general of the Wildlife Trusts.

Conservatives need to reform their organisation from bottom to top — starting with the leadership ballot

The new leader needs a democratic party

William Rees-Mogg

To whom does the Conservative Party belong? Does it belong to the leader? No, he is the servant, not the sovereign. Does it belong to the Members of Parliament? No, they are elected because they have the support of the party. The Conservative Party belongs to its members, just as the sovereignty of the nation belongs to its citizens. To go back to the true original doctrine of democracy, John Locke concluded his *Treatise of Civil Government* thus: "If they have set limits to the duration of their legislature, at the determination of the time set, the people have a right to place the legislature in new hands as they think good." The people of Britain have just thought it good to have a new Government; are the people of the Conservative Party to be given the same opportunity, or will be it exercised by a narrower and unrepresentative group?

Everyone involved in the last general election seems to be agreed on one thing: the Conservative Party in too many constituencies was dying on its feet. The officers were mostly in their sixties or seventies, a few in their eighties. There was no adequate canvass, not even in many of the seats the Tories lost. There were part-time or temporary agents in place of the full-time professional agents who once worked so hard to turn marginals into safe seats. The party in the constituencies was perhaps only half as efficient as it was 20 years ago, and was wholly unattractive to the young. I was of only one canvasser who called himself a Young Conservative.

At the other end of the scale was the loss of authority in the leadership, of which John Major has complained bitterly to his friends. In the last ten years there have been three contested elections for the Conservative leadership, two against Margaret Thatcher, the second of which removed her, despite her three election victories; one was against John Major himself, who had felt the need to reassert his authority by resigning and challenging his opponents. The last two leaders have found themselves presiding over factions rather than leading a united party. The narrow electorate of the parliamentary party has not proved a solid base for leadership. If the next leader also depends on this narrow base, the first disagreements, the first parliamentary failures against Tony Blair, will be followed by renewed talk of yet another leadership contest. Only a broad electorate can give a broad mandate for leadership.

This week the 1922 Committee will be considering whether to broaden the electorate, and whether to postpone the election of the next leader, decisions that could determine whether the Tories are out of power for five, ten, or even 15 years. These decisions are not to be taken lightly. The MPs do not include anyone from Wales, Scotland, or most of the large cities of England. They are not representative. None of the six declared candidates commands the confidence of a majority either in the House of Commons or in the party in the constituencies.

Only one constitutional proposal would both revitalise the party in the country and give unquestioned authority to the new leader. That is to place the leadership election not in some limited franchise, even an

extended one, but in the hands of all the members of all the constituencies. Every member of a constituency association registered by, say, September 30, should be entitled to vote for the next leader of the party. This proposal should be discussed in the first place between the outgoing leader, John Major, the 1922 Committee, and the National Union. When outline proposals have been agreed, there should be consultation with every constituency, and agents should be drafted in to complete and

scrutinise every constituency's roll of membership. The approved proposal should be put before the party conference, and the election itself should be held either towards the end of this year or early in 1998. By that time, the missing candidates, Michael Portillo and Christopher Patten, might be available.

This would be good for the party in the constituencies: it would give them a reason to win recruits and a sense of democratic power. It would change the Tories from being organisationally elitist to being a members' party. The new leader would be their

leader. Membership would rise, because many loyal Conservative voters would think it worth their while to become members of local parties. This would fit well into a campaign to win back seats in local government. It would also be good for the leader. Nobody could become leader without having proven ability to appeal successfully to a mass electorate. The job of a party leader is to win elections in such a mass electorate; this would be a test of the ability to do so. The elected leader would have the authority of having been chosen by the whole body of active Conservatives. The new leader should then be freed from challenges inside the parliamentary party: there must be no more assassinations. Leadership elections should be held only when a leader retires or at the beginning of a new Parliament. There might need to be some provision for removal in case of gross incompetence or inability, as there is in the United States. The election should probably be by a multiple choice system, allowing voters to list their preferences.

Such a system should leave the right to nominate, but not to elect, in the hands of the parliamentary party. That hurdle should be quite high. Perhaps it should require nomination by not less than 10 per cent of Tory MPs. That would certainly reduce the present field of candidates, and would encourage concentration on the real choices.

What are the objections? There is

the problem of the leadership in the eight months it might take to adopt the new constitution and actually hold the election. It is unlikely that John Major would be willing to continue. An acting leader could be chosen, perhaps Michael Heseltine if his health allows, or an experienced figure like John MacGregor if not.

There are only one or two lasting political decisions which are likely to be taken during this interim period. The Conservatives will oppose the Referendum (Scotland & Wales) Bill, and are likely to oppose further European integration. A new policy on Scotland and Wales is needed, but that will have to be hammered out over some period of time. The leadership election would itself stimulate policy debate inside the party.

The great merit of such a constitutional change would be democratisation; there is, after all, a dangerous mismatch between a top-down party and a democratic Britain. A similar mismatch may be developing in Tony Blair's Labour Party, but that is another matter. It may be necessary for the Conservatives to move in this direction even if the old-fashioned electoral procedure is followed. How can any of the six candidates win the authority that a leader needs without a national election, against genuine opposition?

After the 1997 defeat, the Conservatives must recognise the extent of the failure, in the constituencies, in the voluntary organisation, in Central Office, in Parliament, in the Government, in the leadership. That failure requires a root-and-branch reform of the party. It should start in the constituencies, which can be revitalised only if they are given the power that belongs to them. It must unite the constituencies with the leadership. Tory democracy must be more than a fine phrase; only a directly elected leader will have democratic authority.

We need Taylor-made reform

Labour should strengthen the restraining powers of the Commons, says Peter Riddell



Whenever anyone talks about modernisation of the House of Commons, I am wary. Further reform is desirable, indeed overdue, but will change really strengthen the legislature, or just make life easier for the executive? That tension is already apparent in the new Government with its vast majority and fragmented opposition. The outcome will determine whether we have exchanged one era of "elective dictatorship" for another.

The omens so far are mixed. On the one side, Peter Mandelson, a democratic centrist by instinct and experience, argues that "Labour MPs have been elected in order to carry out our manifesto", and have a responsibility "not to impede or present barriers" to its implementation. The command style of opposition lives on — understandably in some ways, given the fractiousness of Labour MPs when previously in government. On the other side, Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons, will this week launch a review of the workings of the House, including ideas about the scrutiny of legislation, and "strengthening the ability of MPs to make the Government answerable for its actions". However, her first contribution as Leader was unilaterally to announce the replacement of the twice-weekly 15-minute sessions of Prime Ministers' Questions with one 30-minute session, starting this Wednesday. The Tories have complained about a lack of consultation, though I have sympathy with Roy Jenkins, who says that if reform was to be undertaken, it had to be before the session started and one side was up and the other down. Such excuses have prevented reform before.

Conflicts between executive and legislative priorities have limited parliamentary reform over the years. Thirty years ago, Richard Crossman's attempt largely failed through lack of support from other ministers. The major innovation since then, the introduction of departmental select committees in 1979, was a rare exception, being bounced through in the immediate aftermath of the Tory victory.

Mrs Taylor's reform proposals are not entirely novel. Many build on changes introduced over the past five years by Tony Newton. Late night sittings have already virtually disappeared, and MPs are able to plan ahead and spend more time in their constituencies. Mrs Taylor has hinted at a more even spread of sittings during the year, perhaps returning in September and then having occasional

weeks off during sessions. One unremarked result of the big rise in the number of women MPs is the high proportion with young children, so the parliamentary year may be linked more to the school year.

Mr Newton also introduced more consultation about draft Bills, to avoid the mistakes and hasty rewriting seen in the past. Mrs Taylor rightly wants to take this further, both by allowing more time for consultation before Bills are published, as on freedom of information and pension-splitting, and by improving the way Bills are scrutinised when going through Parliament.

For these changes to work, the executive has to give up some of its power to determine the shape of legis-

lation. Of course, a government with a majority is entitled to get its way on the thrust of its programme, and there will always be bitter disagreements over some measures. But even in these cases there is always scope for improvements. The Government has to be willing to accept suggestions from select committees or amendments to Bills without losing face. Mrs Taylor says she wants a "less confrontational and more productive process": that means that the whips have to be less stringent. But if the legislature is to regain its proper role, not of governing (which is for the executive) but of holding ministers to account, further changes are necessary. Parliament has to recognise, rather than just complain about, the emergence of alternative centres of power — whether the European institutions, the judiciary, utility regu-

lators or, now, the Bank of England. The monitoring of all of them is hazardous. An elaborate structure exists for scrutinising European legislation, but the exercise needs to be made part of the political mainstream. Select committees are currently free to pick their own topics for inquiry. Instead, they should have a duty to report on the activities of bodies within their remit, such as regulators. Such an obligation is explicit in Gordon Brown's proposals for ensuring full accountability of the Bank of England via reports to and questioning by the Treasury committee.

That also implies a change in attitudes and ambitions within the Commons, not least to improve the quality of MPs serving on these committees. At present, almost all MPs want to be on the front bench. But an alternative career structure should be created, both by reducing the number of ministers and by enhancing the standing of select committees. Last summer, the Senior Salaries Review Body said paying committee chairmen should be considered, though Mrs Taylor is cool about this.

These changes are far more important than the "sleaze" rows that dominated the last Parliament. Reforms are desirable here also. The Standards and Privileges Committee could be made less political and more judicial; possibly if the Leader of the House was no longer the chairman. Some actions, such as financial impropriety, could also be brought within the scope of the criminal law, which already applies to election offences (at stake in the allegations against Mohammed Sarwar).

But what really matters now is the creation of a check on the executive. The Lords does not have the authority to be more than a temporary hurdle (requiring the Commons to look again, as Lord Cranborne suggested yesterday). The Opposition is fragmented and the Tories' trauma is likely to last for some time. So a real test of the Government's commitment to reform will be whether it is willing to create a counterbalance to its own power. Mrs Taylor has some good ideas, but does the Government have the will?

Proper nosh

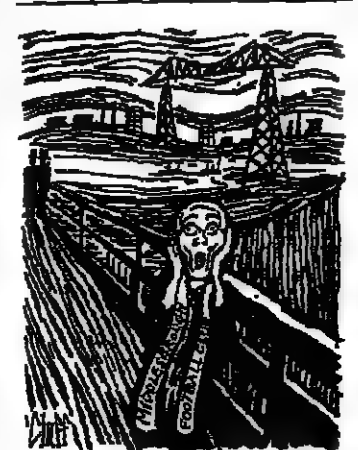
HOUSE OF COMMONS food looks set to be the first battleground since the election for the war between new and old Labour. At the State Opening of Parliament, an impenetrable foreign menu was served up in the Strangers' dining room, full of potentes, mignones and untranslatable French sauces. For Sir Raymond Powell, 68, Labour MP for Ognore in South Wales, it was too much. He is planning to run for the position of chairman of the catering committee. His manifesto: out with the bordelaise bonemarrow, in with the faggots and peas.

"I shouldn't need a degree in French to be able to order my dinner," says Powell, a Welshman whose mother was a hotel cook. "I would like to see a sensible menu of cowl, faggots, peas and a choice of real bread-and-butter pudding or jam roly-poly." In Powell's world, Eccles cakes would be served for tea in the canteen.

Powell has a unique conception of where power lies in the Commons. While others scrambled for ministerial office, his other big jobs have included being on the Commons services committee and

chairing the new building committee, allocating offices and overseeing the building extensions above Westminster tube station. Members with more Continental tastes are hoping that he can be persuaded to return to organising the room ballots.

● Barry Norman, the film critic, has been approached to appear in the *Spice Girls* movie. He was interviewing the girls in Cannes

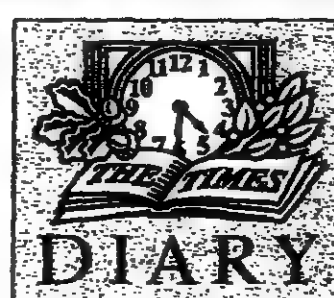


when they asked him to play himself in the film, to be modelled on the Beatles' *Hard Day's Night*. "I don't suppose they will ask me to do a *Hamlet* soliloquy or anything," says Norman. "It will probably just be me being me with a couple of the girls."

Night out

FOR sheer urban cool, new Labour has a lot to do to catch up with Václav Havel, the Czech President, and Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State. Havel and his new wife were in New York on Thursday evening to pick up yet another poet-cum-statesman award. After the formalities, Havel telephoned an old friend, the singer Lou Reed, and suggested a night out clubbing. Havel and Reed got to know one another in the 1970s when Havel used to smuggle Velvet Underground albums into Prague, where they became favourites of the anti-communist movement.

Reed suggested they go to a dive called the Knitting Factory. When they met, Havel said he was expecting some more friends to join them. But even the seen-it-all Reed looked stunned when Albright, who has Czech blood, arrived surrounded by security guards. When she insisted on gabbling



through the show, however, the performer, John Zorn, called out: "Would everyone up in the balcony please be quiet and listen to the music?"

● Hard though it may be on a stomach still digesting breakfast, there is more news from Neil Hamilton. The former Conservative MP for Tatton has hurried in his application for the job of political editor on The Glasgow Herald, a post left empty by the death last week of the widely admired, and still more widely lunched Geoffrey Parkhouse. Hamilton is not being given serious consideration.

With verve

CAMBRIDGE'S Boat Race crew are proving impressively resistant

to the blandishments of Versace, the flashy Italian fashion house. Versace has been pleading with James Ball, the Boat Race stroke, to model its new sports range at Italian fashion shows, after seeing him in a fashion piece by Tatler's irrepressible style editor, Kate Rendon, in the Express's Saturday magazine.

"Modelling comes as a bit of a shock," says Ball in between cramming for his theology finals this week. "I'm more a jeans and rowing-kit man, and I'd rather be a management consultant than a model." Worse, when Versace approached the Cambridge rowing



Ball: but who are you?

manager to see if his eight could model a forthcoming Lycra range, he asked "What exactly is Versace?"

Promotion

HONG KONG'S handover celebrations will include re-creations of the Last Night of the Proms on each of the last three nights before the colony reverts to China, courtesy of Richard Branson. His company, Virgin Atlantic, will be flying out the mezzo-soprano Della Jones to perform with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, with a result to stiffen British spines with a light classical flair and such old belters as *Rule Britannia* and *Jerusalem*.

How seriously China takes Branson's stunt will become apparent when the Government replies to his airline's bid for a London-Shanghai route.

Runneth over

ONE MORE victim of Chelsea's success, to add to the thousands in the North East, is Estelle Skornik, the actress better known as Nicole, the Renault Clio girl. Today she will be appearing at the Chelsea Flower Show to promote the "Garden in Provence", a celebration of all things French. The shaven-



Flower of France Estelle

headed Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf was due to appear with her, but he has been whisked off to Hong Kong for a match against Chinese champions, South China FC, on Tuesday.

Chelsea, however, have come up with a replacement, Miss Skornik will now be appearing alongside the FA Cup.



THE BUDGET JUDGMENT

Gordon Brown should resist temptation on tax

Rarely has there been a "more gross breach of faith" with the people than the last Tory Government's decision to raise taxes just six months after the 1992 election. Labour, by contrast, would renew Britain's "faith in politics" by sticking to its pledges through thick and thin. So said Tony Blair in the preface to Labour's election manifesto. Now that Mr Blair is Prime Minister, the question is whether he will forget these fine pre-election phrases. Nothing Labour said in the election would preclude a major redistribution of taxes — for example from the poor to the rich or from workers to shareholders and pensioners. But before even considering such issues of distribution, the Chancellor must make what is called the "Budget judgment". He must decide whether to increase the total burden of tax.

Gordon Brown may present the Prime Minister with a tempting case for higher taxes. Politically, the first Budget of a new Parliament is the best time for unpopular measures. Not only is the pain likely to be forgotten by the next election, it can also be blamed on the "mess" allegedly left behind by the other side.

But even assuming that Mr Blair is sincere enough about the people's trust to eschew such political considerations, he will hear four plausible-sounding economic arguments for higher tax. First, the Treasury will probably claim (as it nearly always does) that the economy is overheating and needs to be slowed down to avert inflation. This is a counsel of despair. Without economic growth, the new Government's promises to reduce long-term unemployment will turn to ashes.

Secondly, Mr Blair may hear the argument that even if economic growth is not excessive it needs to be "rebalanced" away from consumption and in favour of exports. Such a manoeuvre can often be performed by raising taxes, while pushing down both

interest rates and the pound. It would be, in principle, a valid justification for a fiscal tightening. But the logic is much less compelling now that the independent Bank of England is unlikely to offset higher taxes with lower interest rates. With the tax and monetary levers operated by different people, a fiscal tightening could simply push sterling even higher and aggravate the economic slowdown which the Bank wants to bring about by raising interest rates.

Thirdly, Mr Blair may be told that higher taxes are needed because the Treasury "books" bequeathed by the Tories are full of "black holes". This is simply untrue. Public borrowing is below Treasury forecasts and will continue to improve even without policy changes. Britain is the only major country in Europe whose finances already meet the Maastricht criteria without creative accounting. Of course, further tax increases could make Britain's public finances even stronger. But this hardly justifies an urgent retrenchment by a Government which has just promised not to raise taxes and to put the unemployed back to work.

This leaves the fourth, and most plausible, reason for Mr Brown to raise the burden of taxes: to give himself leeway for higher public spending in future years. Labour has promised to stick to the Tory spending plans only until March 1999. From then onwards, the Government will almost certainly want more revenue. By being tough now, Mr Brown could build up a war chest for a public spending binge in the run-up to the next election. But such political manipulation would carry costs. It would needlessly deflate the economy, hitting both employment and investment. It would make spending control more difficult as ministers saw the Treasury's coffers overflowing. Above all, it would damage Mr Blair's claims about his new covenant of honesty with the people.

SUSPEND SARWAR

Labour must be true to its stance on sleaze

The Conservatives' election campaign was torpedoed within days of its launch by sleaze. Now it is Labour's turn to have its fresh start tarnished by allegations of corruption. The impression may lodge in the public mind that there is nothing to choose in this matter between the parties and sleaze is a seamless robe. That would be wrong. The allegations made against Mohammed Sarwar, the MP for Glasgow Govan, are of a different order from those levelled against the Tory MPs accused of corruption, and cast light on a different problem. They do, however, call for similarly tough treatment.

Labour may understandably be tempted to give Mr Sarwar the benefit of the doubt for reasons as much ethnic as ethical. Even after a landslide for Labour, he is the only Muslim member of this Parliament. Muslim voters have been disappointed by the failure of the Labour Party to select others of their faith for safe, or even winnable seats. Their loyalty to Labour might be further strained if Mr Sarwar was perceived as the victim and not the villain in this affair.

Mr Sarwar's background may be the reason for leniency now, but it is also at the root of the allegations. As both a Muslim and Glaswegian politician, Mr Sarwar has had to wade through murky waters. Glasgow has been a Labour Party barony for far longer than 18 years and, as the Tories proved, too long a lease on power breeds arrogance and corruption. It can also mean that political competition takes place within parties, on organisational grounds, rather than between them on ideology.

The introduction of one member, one vote, in candidate selection has made Labour more democratic but it has also given

ambitious organisers a new outlet. In several seats across the UK dramatic increases in Labour Party membership among Asians have been recorded. Their memberships have often been bought by activists, not necessarily themselves from the Asian community, hoping to influence candidate selection.

The selection process in Govan which resulted in Mr Sarwar's election was particularly tortuous. Party in-fighting created resentment locally and Mr Sarwar saw a swing to the Scottish National Party in his seat. Although Mr Blair is insulated by a massive majority he would not welcome a by-election in Scotland which could give the nationalists a boost while devolution was being debated. He must, however, realise that what would be far more damaging would be the perception that he was soft on sleaze and soft on the causes of sleaze.

The allegations against Mr Sarwar are, primarily, for the police to investigate. Because the charges levelled against him concern election to office, not its abuse, any case to answer must in law be heard in the courts, not Parliament. That does not, however, absolve Labour of responsibility. Allegations of this gravity directed at others in public life would lead to a suspension until innocence was proved. Whatever Mr Sarwar's role in this matter, there are in any case strong grounds for Labour's NEC to investigate the affair and draw appropriate lessons about the candidate selection process. Labour does not suffer from sleaze on the scale the Tories did, but having made probity in public life a central campaign issue it has an obligation to take every step it can to allay the electorate's doubts.

VEGANS AND VOLVOS

Protesters can be posh too

As connoisseurs of disaster movies know, airports can be the backdrop for the strangest alliances. Almost as odd as the friendships struck trying to save one of Arthur Haley's jinxed Jumbos are the new relationships fostered in the shadow of Manchester Airport. As we report on page 5, a shared opposition to a second runway for Manchester has created a second political revolution in Tatten. The Tory ladies who deserted the blackheated Neil Hamilton for the white-suited Martin Bell are now walking, gingerly, arm-in-arm, with the authentically earth-toned Swampy. The middle classes of Moberley, who would have imagined Vegans were characters from *Star Trek* until they met the eco-warriors, are now cooking macrobiotic picnics. My enemy's enemy has always been my friend but the anti-airport alliance may presage something broader — the rediscovery of rebelliousness among Britain's bourgeoisie.

Middle class has become a metaphor for all that is boring in Britain, but the privet hedges hide the nation's real rebels. The twentysomething leaders of the anti-runway protest are, in many cases, the products of middle-class homes. Their parents may be fighting to control prosperous middle-age spread, but thirty years ago they let it all hang out. As they moved from hippy to yuppie to mummy they may have lost their energy but many will have kept their idealism. Seeing their little darlings pick up the ideas, and then do something about it, will have led many a Home Counties mother

to rifle nostalgically through the record collection for the Joni Mitchell album.

Others, emboldened by their offspring's actions, have had a go at protesting themselves. Some of those campaigning against live animal exports at Brightlingsea harbour had accents as cut glass as any at Cowes. Previous protesters against road developments at Twyford Down or Newbury saw the blue rinse brigade and the no rise for days division standing together. It would be too much to suggest that the experience transformed the Berkshire WI into the military wing of Greenpeace but it did nudge some of the comfortable out of their complacency.

It helps that the causes today's protesters are championing chime with middle-class concerns. Greenery is more popular than Greenham Common could ever be. Cynics may, however, argue that the Cheshire ladies handing buns to the eco-warriors are really supporting Nimby, not Swampy. Certainly, some of the Moberley middle classes will be more agitated by falling house prices than the fragile ecology. Others, however, will find, as anyone might, that once you get close to Swampy something rubs off. The all-encompassing fervour of the eco-warriors' vision is bound to have an impact on Cheshire ladies who have, hitherto, had more pressing concerns than the future of the planet to worry about. Permanent protesting can prove wearing but we all need, occasionally, to be reminded of the importance of being earnest.

Cook's tour of our new horizons

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, Your excellent leading article today, "Horizon tour", pointed out many of the dilemmas which will face Robin Cook and his team as they seek to bring a greater degree of ethics into our national foreign policy.

However, as in Robin Cook's "mission statement", so in your editorial, scarcely a reference to the role of the United Nations in so many areas of concern to our new Government. In our view, the United Nations is central in such areas as securing global environmental protection, real justice for the world's poor, internationally verifiable arms control and disarmament, the greater implementation of human rights standards and the promotion of preventive diplomacy as a major aspect of conflict avoidance.

Robin Cook has once again emphasised the key role which the United Kingdom wishes to play in the European Union. As the member states of the EU seek, however falteringly, to create a common foreign and security policy, they are involving themselves increasingly in United Nations initiatives — as is the Commonwealth, which Mr Cook also wishes to see strengthened.

We urge both the Foreign Secretary and *The Times* to promote the centrality of the United Nations in all the efforts made to enhance the many standards required for a more just and peaceful world.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM HARPER, Director,
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1,
May 13.

Ethics and realpolitik

From Mr Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham (Labour)

Sir, Why does Simon Jenkins' "Missionary diplomacy" May 14 dump on the Government's view that the elimination of child labour is a worthy object of foreign policy?

The memory and spirit of Wilberforce and others who argued that British values as well as British interests should influence our foreign policy are coming back to life in the Foreign Office. Cynics may sneer that even a little idealism is a dangerous thing; but give me a Wilberforce who campaigned against the immediate economic interests of slave-traders or, more recently, a Churchill who called for a united Europe after 1945, in contrast to the *realpolitik* advocates, who appear to despise democracy, or the latter-day Little England isolationists who hate partnership in Europe.

Mashing human rights with diplomacy and with British business interests is complicated and often contradictory work, but at least our new Foreign Secretary is making a start.

Yours truly,
DENIS MACSHANE,
House of Commons,
May 14.

From Ms Geraldine O'Callaghan

Sir, Simon Jenkins is right to point out the current double standards of banning the possession of certain firearms in Britain whilst continuing to export them abroad. However, this discrepancy between domestic and foreign policy is a hangover from the Conservative Government, and all indications are that Labour plans to address these "moral ambiguities".

Concerns about the Conservative Government's policy of exporting weapons deemed unacceptable for civilians in Britain were repeatedly raised by the Labour Party front bench (both in the Commons and the Lords) during the recent debates on firearms legislation. The Conservative Government rejected Labour requests that weapons prohibited by the 1997 Firearms Act would not be exported abroad. It also rejected amendments proposed by Labour to ensure the destruction of such weapons which would have taken them permanently out of circulation.

The increasing availability of small arms is a key factor in the perpetuation of violence around the world — both in conflicts and in civil society. If, when drafting new firearms legislation, the Labour Government proposes to destroy prohibited weapons rather than export them, this consistent (and ethical) stance between domestic and foreign policy will surely be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE O'CALLAGHAN
(Weapons trade analyst),
British American Security Information Council,
20 Embankment Place, WC2,
May 14.

Good at games

From Ms Anne E. Abel Smith

Sir, If Libby Purves (article, "Boys need watching", May 13) wishes to witness the "channelling [of] vast physical energy into permissible physical skills", she need look no further than the playing fields of English preparatory schools.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE ABEL SMITH,
11 Meadow Road, SW19,
May 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

An expanded role for British Legion

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, I share Mr Nick Eveleigh's concern for the future of the Royal British Legion (letter, May 14) and welcome his initiative. I support his suggestion for the inclusion of those who now serve the community, but there is one group who remain unrecognised for their wartime service — the Bevin Boys.

Conscripted under the National Service Act they were the only people so mobilised who did not serve in the Armed Services. But despite the arduous and dangerous nature of their national service they received no demob suit, no pension and no medal — not, I suspect, that they wanted one. Churchill said of them:

While some might say "I fought with the Eighth Army" and others that they served in HM Submarines, they could say, with equal pride and equal right, "I cut the coal".

A welcome gesture by the Royal British Legion would be to include representatives of the Bevin Boys in the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday following the service attended by Her Majesty, and to invite them to attend the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall on the previous evening.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIN,
House of Lords,
May 14.

From the Earl Haig

Sir, Mr Eveleigh is pointing in the right direction. The Royal British Legion is a force for good, but a reduction in its ranks is inevitable unless a proportion of non-ex-service members are enrolled and a recruitment drive for younger ex-servicemen is carried out.

By the year 2005 the youngest men who saw active service in the 1939-45 war will be 80. By 2015 the last men who did National Service will reach the same age. So by 2015 the ex-service element in our population will be relatively small.

However, while there is a need, our pension and welfare work will continue for all ex-service people and for their dependants, irrespective of whether they are members of the Legion. But just as important is the spirit of caring which is fostered by

branches within the communities.

The Legion is a democratic institution, membership qualifications are decided by vote. Whilst proposals to include scouts, guides and the police have failed in the past and may fail in the future, it should be noted that the Legion is divided between those who support a more open-door policy and those who want to maintain membership only of those who have served in the Armed Forces.

Looking ahead the writing is on the wall. I believe my father, who founded the Legion, would have wanted us to take such steps as are necessary now before the Legion numbers dwindle. He understood the need for numerical strength when dealing with government departments.

Yours truly,
HAIG
(Chairman, Royal British Legion,
Scotland, 1963-66; President, 1980-86),
House of Lords,
May 15.

From the Secretary General of the Royal British Legion

Sir, Nick Eveleigh's letter raises some interesting ideas on the future membership of the Royal British Legion. He has put his views several times to the Legion over the past 12 months and has been assured that his suggestions are being seriously considered.

But in an organisation with some 700,000 members and associates, major decisions that would necessitate changes to our Royal Charter can only be taken after thorough research and on the basis of a two-thirds majority vote at our annual conference.

The Legion has much to do in support of the ex-service community in the coming years, so the future is as much on our minds as remembrance of past sacrifice. It is intended that the question of Legion membership in the future will be debated in open forum at our 1997 conference at the end of this month.

Yours faithfully,
IAN TOWNSEND,
Secretary General,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1,
May 15.

A London authority

From Councillor Richard Buckley

Sir, I write as one of the very few Conservatives to have consistently argued that the Thatcher Government was right to abolish the Greater London Council (GLC), but wrong not to have replaced it with a genuinely strategic authority.

Whilst agreeing with much of Simon Jenkins' article ("A democratic urban unbound", May 10), we should avoid at all costs the idea that a London-wide authority or directly-elected mayor should follow the example of M Chirac in Paris and be concerned with such matters as sweeping the streets. London already has the 32 boroughs to deliver local services. That many of them could do so more effectively than at present is undoubtedly true, but that is another issue altogether.

London needs city-wide government because the major issues concerning the capital, such as investment in public transport, are currently decided by central government whose own priorities are all too often

at variance with London's best interests. In addition, many of the ad hoc arrangements set up post-GLC to deal with lesser London-wide matters, such as parking, are not as effective as they should be.

A strategic authority for London should have three key functions: to be its champion; to regulate a very small number of London-wide services such as public transport, traffic, the Metropolitan Police and the emergency services; and to give Londoners the opportunity to feel that they belong to and own London as a whole.

The question is, would any government be brave enough to devolve power to a London-wide strategic authority in any meaningful way when the political leaders of that authority, be it a directly-elected mayor or an indirectly-elected leader, would be more powerful than all but a handful of the most senior Cabinet Ministers?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUCKLEY,
Brent Council,
Room 209, Brent Town Hall,
Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex,
May 11.

Author's view

From Lady Antonia Fraser

Sir, New Labour, new ideas... so here is one for the millennium: a book windfall. Why not give an *ex-gratia* payment to every public library on condition that it is spent entirely on acquiring books (not on salaries or buildings)?

How wonderful to celebrate the glory of our free public libraries and at the same time replenish the rapidly diminishing stocks of books.

Yours sincerely,
ANTONIA FRASER,
52 Camden Hill Square, W8,
May 16.

Shaw copyright

From Mr Charles Simon

Sir, Your recent correspondence on the copyright of Bernard Shaw's plays (April 21, 24) reminds me that some 60 years ago, whilst discussing my productions of his plays with Shaw, I ventured an apology for the small royalties accruing to him through my efforts.

"I wrote them to be performed, my boy," Shaw replied. "That is what matters. Just get them on the stage."

In 1938 I was preparing a production of Shaw's *Back to Methuselah*. With the temerity of youth I proposed some small cuts and asked the author if I might send him a copy of my proposals. "Cut what you like," he answered. "but for heaven's sake don't show me: performance is the aim."

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SIMON,
16 The Mount,
Wembley Park, Middlesex.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Women MPs are not what they wear

From Mrs Sheila Wright

Sir, Jane Shilling's article today, "Cherie, your country needs you", reinforces a long-held view of mine that one of the most important barriers to the progress of women in this country is other women.

For goodness sake — who cares what the newly elected female Labour MPs are wearing, so long as they are clean and covered up? MPs are elected for qualities which have nothing to do with their dress sense. In any event, the behaviour of so many male MPs in the past would suggest that the last thing they need is an influx of Vogue-styled women.

If there is one thing we have learnt from this new Government in the last ten days it is that it is going to do things its own way. I would bet that the last thing on the agenda of the newly elected female MPs is a "going over" with a style guru.

Yours,
SHEILA WRIGHT,
16 Waltham Walk,
Eyes, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
May 14.

From Mrs Wendy Robinson

Sir, Jane Shilling attacks those women MPs who are wearing skirts "brutally terminating at midcalf or bang on the knee-cap". Her column is illustrated by a picture of three former French ministers who are held up to us as a shining example — one of them in a skirt stopping exactly where I had always assumed the knee-cap to be. Similarly your cover picture today shows Cherie Blair, Ms Shilling's one hope for the country, wearing a skirt stopping on — the knee-cap.

For the sake of us who aspire to the glamour advocated by Ms Shilling, would she please explain how many millimetres above the centre of the knee are needed to change dowdiness to chic?

Yours faithfully,
WENDY ROBINSON,
28 Old Grammar Lane,
Bungay, Suffolk,
May 15.

From Dr Lynne Jones, MP for Birmingham Selly Oak (Labour)

Sir, According to the Valentine card I received in February, I was the sexiest woman in Westminster. It may well be that the (anonymous) sender needed an eye test but I, for one, am delighted that the competition for the title is now so much steeper.

It is a pity that Jane Shilling could not share in celebrating the achievement of such a dramatic increase in the number of women MPs and instead had to resort to such jaundiced comments.

Yours faithfully,
LYNNE JONES,
House of Commons,
May 15.

From Mr Simon N. Foster

Sir, Thank you very much for Ms Shilling's illuminating thoughts on the connections between sexiness, intelligence and clothing. We look forward avidly, in these days of sexual equality, to an article on the same subject focused upon male MPs.

Yours faithfully,
S. N. FOSTER,
3 Laburnum Cottages,
Grove Road, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire,
May 14.

Worlds without end

From Mr C. W. Stephens

Sir, John Horgan's book, *The End of Science* (Mind and Matter, May 5; letters, May 10), is surely based on a misconception. The gap between data and explanation has been narrowing for centuries, but this is not to say that the data we possess is any more than a tiny fraction of that yet to be observed.

It is inconceivable that future space telescopes, enhanced particle accelerators, planetary exploration and our first contact with extra-terrestrial life will reveal only more data of the type that we already possess. Far from science being left to put flesh on a well-established skeleton it may well be that it is yet looking at a fuzzy X-ray of an incorrectly assembled skeleton.

Newton's mechanistic universe must have seemed to complete man's knowledge of the physical world. It was new data that paved the way for relativity and quantum mechanics. No future prodigy should be deflected from a career in science by the naive assumption that the infinite universe has revealed most of its secrets.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. STEPHENS,
10 Vicarage Lane,
Cockermouth, Cumbria.

The right note

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, No Holst, no Delius, no Walton in this year's Proms, complains Dr David Green (letter, May 17), and more than five times as much Sibelius as Vaughan Williams over the past 18 years. How delightful: quality triumphing over chauvinism. Good for the BBC's Controller of Music.

Yours in happy anticipation,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset,
May 17.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM COLE

William Cole, LVO, Master of the Music at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, 1954-94, died on May 9 aged 87. He was born on October 9, 1909.

If musicians have a reputation for longevity, it is because of veteran practitioners such as William Cole, who at the age of 85 was still playing the organ with youthful zest and directing the choir at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. He had served there as Master of the Music for 40 years.

During his life he made a notable contribution to the music profession in many spheres: as a respected educator, conductor, organist, examiner, author and valued member of numerous committees.

He received his musical training at St Olave's Grammar School and at the Royal Academy of Music. It was to the latter that he returned, after war service in the Air Ministry, to teach harmony and composition and to give music history lectures for 17 years. Concurrently he lectured at the Royal Academy of Dancing.

It is, however, as a choral conductor that Cole will be chiefly remembered. From 1947 to 1963 he was conductor of the People's Palace Choral Society, and in 1954 he faced the formidable task of succeeding Ralph Vaughan Williams, the greatly-loved founder, and for 48 years the conductor of the Leith Hill Musical Festival.

That challenge was made less daunting by reason of Cole's long association with Dorkings: he had been organist of the parish church of St Martin and director of music at Dorking County School in 1930, and subsequently went on to conduct the choirs of Holmwood, Epsom and Dorking at the festival.



William Cole with choristers of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

Moreover, he was the natural successor to Vaughan Williams, having served as his assistant conductor for seven years and enjoyed his close friendship. On handing over to "Bill" Cole, Vaughan Williams wrote: "He is in complete touch with the tradition that has grown up in the last fifty years, but his influence will be no

'dead hand' upon its future development: our festival will grow into something greater than we now know."

This prophecy was fulfilled. During the next 23 years Cole conducted 80 choral works by 35 composers, in addition to more than 400 motets, madrigals and part-songs.

For 12 years William Cole was the secretary of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He supervised the conduct of its examinations, both at home and overseas, and oversaw the publication of its scholarly performing editions.

His broad knowledge of the musical profession, coupled with his

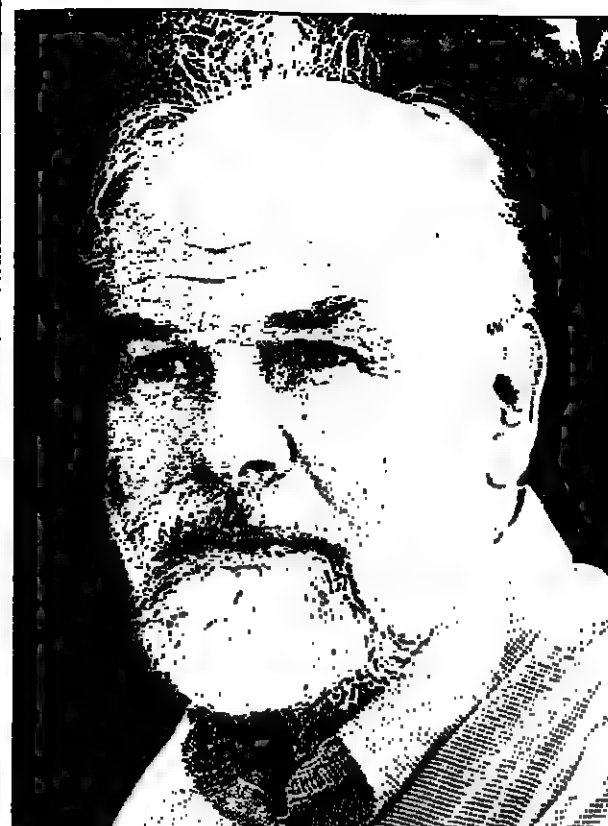
sagacity and business acumen, enabled him to give valuable service to several cultural bodies. For many years he served as the president of the Surrey County Music Association and of the London Association of Organists; as a member of the governing committee of the Royal Choral Society; and as honorary secretary of the Royal Philharmonic Society.

Up until his death he was still an active member of the council of the Royal College of Organists, of which he had served as president and treasurer, and of the Musicians Benevolent Fund, of which he had long been a member of the executive committee. His service as Master of the Music of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, in the Strand, brought him appointment as LVO in 1988.

Bill Cole's great interest outside music was stained glass. It was a subject on which he wrote with authority in several learned journals, having built up a valuable private collection. His last published work was *A catalogue of Netherlandish and North European roundels in Britain* (1993), which is regarded as being the standard work on the subject. Previous books had been: *Rudiments of Music* (1951), a chapter in *The Ballet in Britain* (1962) on the development of British ballet music and *The Form of Music* (1969).

Cole was an enthusiastic member of the Garrick Club, and served on a number of its key committees. He is survived by the three daughters of his first marriage to Elizabeth Caw, who died in 1942, and by the son born to his second wife Winifred, who died in 1991. He took especial delight in the knowledge that his grandson was in the music profession, serving as an assistant organist at Westminster Cathedral.

PETER WINCH



Peter Winch, philosopher, died on April 27 aged 71. He was born on January 14, 1926.

PETER WINCH was a distinguished and influential philosopher who, with his very first book, *The Idea of a Social Science* (1958), produced one of the classic works of postwar philosophy. An important interpreter of Wittgenstein, of whose unpublished papers he became a trustee, he was a wide-ranging and incisive critical thinker, who made notable contributions to many areas of contemporary thought. Whether his subject was ethics or anthropology, he combined philosophical acumen with impressive intellectual honesty, high seriousness with vividness and wit.

Peter Guy Winch was educated at Leyton County High School. From 1944 to 1947 he served in the Royal Navy. He was a student at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics in 1949. He stayed on at Oxford to obtain a BPhil in 1951.

Winch's teaching career began at the University College of Swansea, where he taught from 1951 to 1964, becoming a Senior Lecturer. Among his colleagues were J. R. Jones, Ilham Dilman and R. F. Holland, the latter becoming a close friend. He held a Readership at Birkbeck College from 1964 to 1976, when he was appointed to the Chair of Philosophy at King's College, London.

At King's he established close relationships with Raimond Gaita and Norman Malcolm, whose seminars as Visiting Professor he prized greatly and whose moral authority he prized even more. In 1984 he was appointed Professor of Philosophy in the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign where, in 1995, he co-hosted a conference on Wittgenstein in America.

Winch was a major interpreter of Wittgenstein's work. Wittgenstein's influence on him began at Swansea through Rush Rhees, to whom he became extremely close, intellectually and personally. It was Rhees, he said, who showed him where the fundamental questions of philosophy were to be found. Later he succeeded Rhees as one of the trustees of Wittgenstein's unpublished papers. With D. Z. Phillips, who had been one of his first students at Swansea, he edited *Wittgenstein: Attention to Particulars*, a festschrift in Rhees's honour.

It was at Swansea that he wrote his first book, *The Idea of a Social Science* (1958), which has been translated into a dozen languages and become a classic of 20th-century philosophy. Winch argued

against the view that, in order to understand social life, the social sciences should adopt the methods of the natural sciences. He emphasised the importance of paying attention to the place concepts occupy in the ways of living to which they belong. In his influential paper *Understanding a Primitive Society* he showed how the same emphasis avoids a condescending misunderstanding of cultures other than our own.

In his collections of essays *Ethics and Action* (1975) and *Trying to Make Sense* (1987; German ed. 1992) Winch reveals the deep malaise of generalisation in moral philosophy and elsewhere. He inherited from Wittgenstein and Rhees a sense of the wonderfulness of our ordinary surroundings and the need to rescue them from metaphysical distortion. For the most part, his challenges went unanswered, but they constitute a far-reaching critique of prevailing trends in contemporary philosophy.

Winch lectured widely in Europe as well as in America. His book *The Just Balance* (1989) discusses the work of the remarkable French thinker, Simone Weil. He showed parallels between philosophical traditions thought to be far apart.

Winch edited many collections and contributed to many books and journals. From 1965 to 1971 he was the editor of *Analysis*. He was also a fine translator and recently completed his revised edition of Wittgenstein's *Culture and Value*.

His distinction had been recognised on both sides of the Atlantic. He was president of the Aristotelian Society, 1980-81, and of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, 1995-96. He was a Fellow of King's College, London, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and of the University of Wales, Swansea. He was Visiting Research Fellow at the Academy of Finland and Abo Akademi in 1993, where his close friend, Lars Herzberg, is Professor of Philosophy.

Dedication to discussion was characteristic of Peter Winch as a writer and teacher: a discussion in which his acumen and honesty endeared him greatly to his students and colleagues. Music meant a great deal in his life, and this was deepened through his relationship with his close friend Helen Guyer. In 1989 Raimond Gaita edited a festschrift in his honour, *Values and Understanding*. Recently, he had been working on Lessing's discussion of the Resurrection and a book on Authority.

Peter Winch is survived by his wife Erika and two sons, one of whom is also a philosopher.

BRIGADIER JOHN BAGNALL



Brigadier John Bagnall, OBE, MC, died on April 17 aged 76. He was born on August 29, 1920.

A SHREWED intellect and an engaging sense of fun were just two of many qualities that won John Bagnall the admiration of a huge circle of friends from every age group. His gift of leadership and his enthusiasm inspired generations of young people throughout a long and distinguished career. It began in February 1940 when John Gordon Bagnall was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery at a time when the "Ship", the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, had been evacuated to Larkhill: such was his exceptional ability that he was retained as an instructor. He next joined the 12th (Honourable Artillery Company) Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in 6th Armoured Division, and shortly afterwards was continuously in action for the six months it took to complete the North African campaign.

The regiment was out of the battle line until the battle for Sicily had been won, and during that time it was mechanised with self-propelled guns. The 6th Armoured Division then moved to Italy, and the regiment fought in many strongly contested battles, where

Bagnall distinguished himself by his coolness under fire and the example and encouragement he gave to his men.

After the assault on the Gustav Line, he was awarded the Military Cross. The citation reads: "On May 15, 1944, while supporting A Squadron 77/21st Lancers, two of their Troops ran into trouble from concealed anti-tank guns and four tanks were knocked out. Captain Bagnall's tank was immobilised by a shell. Although close to the enemy and under mortar and shell fire in his tank for the five hours of remaining daylight, he continued directing the fire of his guns. After dark, his tank was recovered. It returned the next day and destroyed another anti-tank gun."

When the war ended in 1945, the regiment moved to Austria, where it returned to its earliest wartime tasks of guarding vulnerable points, in addition to sorting out the unfortunate displaced persons of every central European nationality—the fiftieth and jetsum of war. There were also 3,600 horses, belonging to Cossacks who had fought on the German side to be taken over. Bagnall was nominated as their horse officer.

Alongside many other young men with battle experience, Bagnall then joined the first postwar long Gunners

Staff Course and he became an instructor, first to the Air Observation pilots and then at the School of Artillery in Munsterlager, Germany; his tour in that country continued with a happy return to regimental duty in 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery—an experienced unit, full of battle-hardened officers and NCOs and well-trained National Servicemen.

Bagnall's obvious qualities next brought him to be a company instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where he was to continue later as a college commander. He was specially selected for the Indian Staff College at Wellington, as they wanted an officer who would become Master of the Hounds to their Otty Hunt, and he remained in India as assistant military attaché to the British High Commissioner.

Further spells of staff and regimental duty led him on to an elite appointment which he considered the peak of his career—the command of 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery.

After one more staff posting he finished his career with five command appointments, one of them with Headquarters Training Brigade at Woolwich. With great tact, he unobtrusively absorbed a lively young regiment from Oswestry into a garrison made up of the old and the bold.

Bagnall continued to help others in his retirement. A keen and expert sailor, he navigated the service boat *GB II* in the London to Sydney leg of the *Financial Times* Clipper Race and, when he was asked to take over as the honorary organiser of the London Sailing Project, he became a sort of Pied Piper bringing out the best in young people from widely differing backgrounds, some of them very underprivileged. A countryman through and through, he was a most knowledgeable ornithologist. He was also a tower of strength at local events in Dorset, helping the Riding for the Disabled branch, the Pony Club and the Royal British Legion.

He is survived by his wife Sheila, whom he married in 1947, and by three daughters.

Narciso Yepes, guitarist and composer, died on May 3, aged 69. He was born on November 14, 1927.

DESPITE the fact that he became the leading guitarist of his generation with a reputation second only to that of his fellow Spaniard Andrés Segovia, Yepes' espousal of the ten-string guitar, which he designed, made him something of a Don Quixote figure to professionals of a later generation.

This is not to deny, however, his achievements as a virtuoso. His interest in the early baroque brought composers such as the Frenchman Adrien Le Roy and the Germans Gaspar Sanz and Sylvius Weiss into the mainstream guitar repertoire. His use, unique among guitarists, of the fourth finger of the left hand, greatly facilitated the rapid scale passages characteristic of such music.

Early in the 1960s Yepes began to feel that the traditional six strings limited his approach. He had the Spanish luthier José Ramirez make him an instrument with four extra bass strings which vibrated in sympathy, like the lowest strings of the lute, with those being plucked. This instrument, he claimed, enabled him to arrange the piano music of Manuel de Falla and Isaac Albéniz.

He was successful in persuading a number of composers to produce works for him, among them Maurice Olszans, Joaquín Rodrigo and the doctophonist Bruno Maderna who wrote *Y despus*, inspired by a poem of Lorca. Julian Bream played one such instrument in the early part of his career before abandoning it, feeling, as did many others, that limiting the number of strings enhances the instrument's expressiveness. Segovia, disliking the instrument's richer, heavier sound was more outspoken. "The only thing that this 10-string monstrosity accomplishes is to transform the guitar from a voluptuous *femme* into a maudlin *hausfrau*."

Narciso García Yepes was born in Lorca, in southwest Spain, into a poor rural family. His father gave him his

first guitar at the age of four, and he took to it immediately. Two years later he began to study seriously, travelling by mule every day to a music school in the nearby town of Murcia. At 13 he went to the Conservatoire of Music in Valencia with Rafael Balaguer. Having laid the foundation of a secure technique he preferred thereafter to study with non-guitarists, most notably the pianist and composer Vicente Asencio. This unorthodox approach to interpretation lent subtle piano-like qualities to the work of Yepes.

In 1946 Ataulfo Argenta, the conductor of the National Orchestra of Spain, invited him to Madrid, and the following year he made his debut as soloist with them playing Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, a cornerstone of the guitar repertoire. Four years later he recorded it. It was to be the first of many recordings which Yepes would make. The composer's daughter said recently that his version, "light and agile like a butterfly", came close in spirit to what

her father intended when he wrote the piece.

Yepes' Paris debut in 1951 was widely acclaimed, but it was not until the following year, as the composer and performer of the music to René Clement's film *Jeux Interdits* that he reached a wider audience. More film music followed, notably for *La fille aux yeux d'or* in 1961.

He became known to British audiences after his Wigmore Hall debut in February 1961, and a long association with Deutsche Grammophon allowed him to make recordings that ranged widely through the guitar repertoire.

His recordings of his own arrangements of Telemann and Scarlatti display the cool clarity which was one of his hallmarks. Nor did he confine himself to the solo repertoire. During the 1970s and 1980s he performed widely with his fellow Spaniard, the mezzo-soprano Teresa Berganza.

Narciso Yepes is survived by his Polish wife Marysia and by their son and their daughter.



Church news

Appointments

The Rev Michael Hunter, Resident Minister, Penn Fields, district Church of St Joseph of Arimathea; to be also Rural Dean of Trysull (Lichfield).

The Rev Andrew James, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Drybrook; to be also Rural Dean of Forest South (Gloucester).

The Rev Gillian Jessop, Curate, Great Yarmouth Team Ministry (Norwich); to be Rector, Great W Linde Addington and Woodford (Peterborough).

The Rev Jeffrey Leonard, Vicar, Allonby and Cross Canonby (Carlisle); to be Bishop's Adviser in Pastoral Care and Counselling and Assistant Minister, Culwich, Great Haywood and Colton (Lichfield).

The Right Rev Michael Marshall, formerly Archbishop's Adviser for Evangelists; to be Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Sloane Street (to be known as Assistant Bishop in the diocese of London, based at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street).

The Rev Deborah Mayn, Assistant Curate, Bloxwich (Lichfield); to be

Team Vicar, St Martin's, Brimsby (Lincoln).

The Rev Andrew Micklethwaite, Curate, St Peter and Paul, Abington; to be Team Vicar, Duxton Team Ministry (Peterborough).

The Rev Paul Morris, Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism (Southwell); to be also Diocesan Officer for the Millennium.

The Rev Barry North, Rector, Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge and Little Wenlock (Hereford); to be a General Preacher for work as Church and Community Worker, Manlake, Denney, Scunthorpe (Lincoln).

The Rev Dr Susan Patterson, formerly of New Zealand; to be Lecturer in Ethics and Applied Theology at Trinity College, Bristol.

The Rev Timothy Pilkington, Rector, St John w Millbrook (Truro); to be Vicar, St Matthews, Northampton (Peterborough).

The Rev Jennifer Pollock, Curate (NSM), Leominster Team Min-

istry; to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary Magdalene, Eardisley; St Silas, Bellingham and Willersley; St Mary, Brilley, St Michael, Michaelchurch; St Peter and Paul, Whitney; St Michael and All Angels', Winclogon; St Mary, Almsley; St James, Kinnersley (Hereford).

The Rev Denise Poole, formerly Assistant Curate, Horton All Saints; to be Anglican Chaplain and Chaplaincy Co-ordinator to the Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust.

The Rev David Rowe, Priest-in-charge, Arborfield w Barkham (Oxford); to be Assistant Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism (Southwell).

The Rev Peter Sibley, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Tewkesbury; to be also Rural Dean of Tewkesbury (Gloucester).

Resignations and retirements

The Very Rev Ben Lewers, Provost of Derby, to retire December 31.

The Rev Kenneth Crichton, Chap-

lain, The Mount, Bovingdon (St Albans); retired March 31.

The Rev Edward Farley, Priest-in-charge, Bourton-on-the-Water w Clapton (Gloucester); retired April 20.

Canon Gerald Greenwood, Diocesan Director of Education (Southwell); to retire August 31.

Canon Brian Hammond, Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral, and Vicar, All Saints', Spring Park; to retire May 31.

The Rev Neville Jacobs, Vicar, Chipping Sodbury and Old Sodbury (Gloucester); to retire May 31.

The Rev William Lewis, Vicar, St Richard, Ham (Southwark); retired April 30.

The Rev Ralph Mann, Priest-in-charge, Broadwell, Evenlode, Oddington and Adlestrop (Gloucester); to retire May 31.

The Rev Kenneth Wilson, Team Vicar, Wolverhampton Team Ministry, All Saints' (Lichfield); resigned May 16.

The Rev William Wood, Rector, St Mary, Horne, and Priest-in-charge, St John, Outwood (South-

MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, — At the present time, when those who take an interest in foreign missions are assembled in London, perhaps a few remarks from one who has hitherto been of the opinion that all money spent on missions abroad was entirely wasted, but who recently has somewhat altered his ideas, may be useful. The sum annually contributed by the people of this country for the conversion of the heathen is enormous, but from what I have lately seen and heard in India the real conversions are hardly worth referring to. The money sent out, however, is to a certain extent usefully employed on education, and very much goes on what are known as medical missions for actual surgical and medical work. One medical missionary working amongst the mountaineers in the north of India, who rarely saw a white man, stated to a friend of mine: "I have been at work now for 15 years. I do not believe I have made one sincere convert, but I have operated successfully for stone on over 1,000 natives."

In Central India the information as to conversions was very much the same. The medical missionaries were doing useful work, but as far as I could gather, and I went pretty carefully into the subject, the mission money

ON THIS DAY

May 19, 1905

Was money spent on missionary work overseas wasted? As for the kind-hearted old ladies who "so liberally subscribe to the conversion of the poor benighted heathen... to the detriment of their own poor relations", shouldn't they know how the money was spent?

was principally spent on schools, which were conducted almost precisely in the same manner as the Government schools, the teachers being Hindus and Mohammedans, with a few Eurasian Christians, the only real difference being that the native youngsters in the mission schools had to listen to a half-hour's chapter from the Bible or prayer; this, in plain language, they endured for the simple reason that the fees in the mission schools were rather less than in the Government ones. Consequently, the good people in this country are really taxing themselves for what non-

inally correspond to our Church schools in England, thereby saving the Indian Government the lessened cost of what correspond to our own Board schools.

The kind-hearted old ladies at home who so liberally subscribe to the conversion of "the poor benighted heathen who howl down to stocks and stones," and who do so often stultify to the detriment of their own poor relations, ought to know really how the money is spent.

One instance of spreading the Gospel, "scattering the seed", an appeal which rarely fails to draw, came to my notice. A friend commanding a native cavalry regiment told me, just after the occurrence took place, that a missionary with several packets of Hindustani and other translations of the Bible and Gospels came to the camp and commenced freely to distribute. There was soon a great rush for the books. My friend found out that his men wanted the books not to read, but to light their camp fires early in the morning, paper being so handy for such purposes when on the march.

Your obedient servant
ALEX. B. TULLOCH.

THE TIMES WINNING TEAM AT WEMBLEY

LYNNE TRUSS

Why Emerson keeps missing the bus
PAGE 28

STEVE McMANAMAN

Middlesbrough must face some hard truths after defeat
PAGE 28

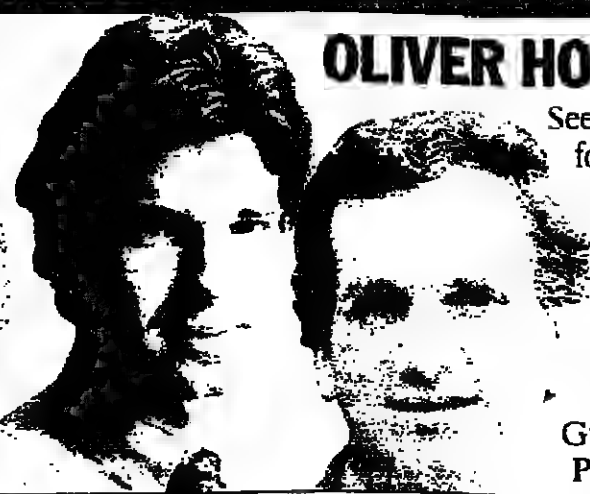


OLIVER HOLT

Sees a new dawn for Chelsea
PAGE 29

ROB HUGHES

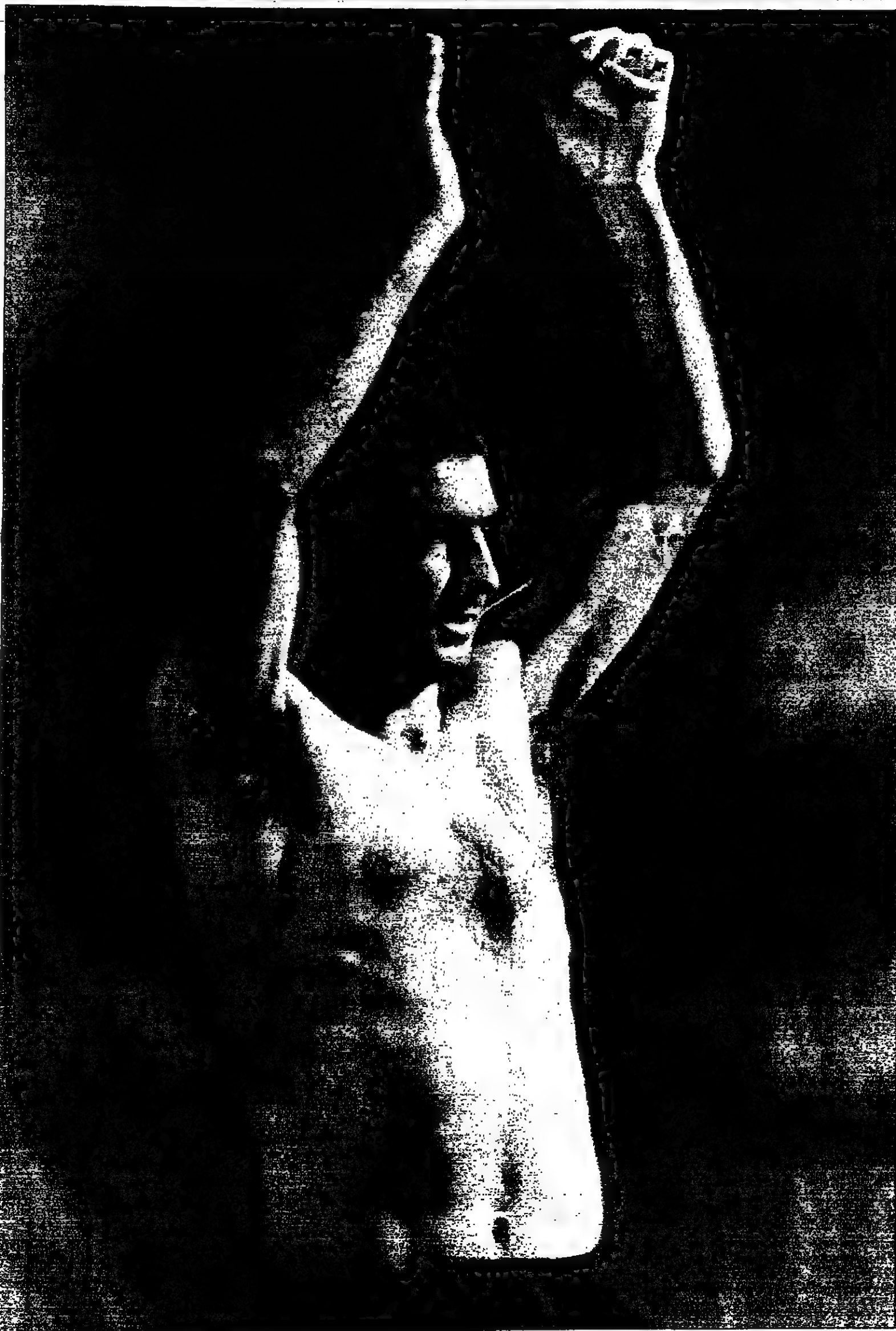
On the mystery man who solved Gullit's problems
PAGE 29



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 19 1997

FRENCHMAN BIDS ADIEU TO OLD TRAFFORD



Cantona cuts short great adventure

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE has always been something of the icon in the iconoclast that is Eric Cantona and yesterday the supremely talented French footballer went the way of so many fragile, ephemeral cultural heroes before him when he chose to leave at the top, not fade away.

Whether he realised that his powers were on the wane, that he had outgrown his usefulness as a catalyst for Manchester United, as the model for the club's young players, or whether he sensed that his age — he will be 31 this week — was gradually robbing him of the nonconformity that gave him his spark, it was indicative of the influence he has had on English football that the shock waves of the news should overshadow the FA Cup Final on Saturday.

The announcement of the retirement of the man who has bestrode the English game in the Nineties came from Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, at 3.30pm yesterday and was treated with the solemnity usually accorded to the passing of a monarch.

For the fans who have idolised him, the ones who have hated him, the ones who have written exhaustively about him and praised him extravagantly, the sight of the famous upturned collar of the red No 7 shirt seems to have gone forever, and with it the sense of dangerous unpredictability and excitement he brought to a football world dominated by young clones.

The marketing men will miss him, too. The advertisement that featured a large black and white picture of him under the statement "1966 was a great year for English football, Eric was born" was one of the most successful in Nike's history.

There is a possibility that he may regret of his decision. He retired once before in France in 1991 after being banned for two months for yelling "idiot" in the faces of each member of a disciplinary panel quizzing him over his sending-off for throwing the ball at a referee.

Still, the disbelief with which the announcement of his retirement, made by Martin Edwards, the United chairman, was greeted, brought to mind the wide-eyed astonish-

ERIC CANTONA IN ENGLAND

LEEDS UNITED

Appearances: 35
Goals: 14
Honours: Football League Championship: 1992
Charity Shield: 1992

MANCHESTER UNITED

Appearances: 185
Goals: 82
Honours: FA Premier League: 1993
FA Carling Premiership: 1994, 1996, 1997
FA Cup: 1994, 1996
Charity Shield: 1990, 1994, 1996
Footballer of the Year (Players) 1994
Footballer of the Year (Writers) 1996

ment on Merseyside that followed the news that Bill Shankly had resigned as manager of Liverpool in the 1970s.

The news comes against a background of speculation that Cantona's powers had begun to wane and that United were on the verge of using him more selectively, possibly by replacing him with Juninho, for whom Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has professed great admiration.

There were whispers yesterday that Cantona had been unhappy about the terms of a

eight-month ban for delivering a kung-fu kick to a Crystal Palace fan at Selhurst Park on January 25.

It was thought then that United would cut their losses, that the stigma would be such that Cantona would never play in England again but Ferguson stayed loyal to the Frenchman, even travelling to Paris to meet him in a restaurant and talk him out of asking for a transfer request.

At the end of that season, United parted company with the likes of Paul Ince and Andrei Kanchelskis and put their faith in home-

grown young players such as Gary and Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and David Beckham. Cantona, after his return that October, was the bridge between the past and the future and helped them to the double.

This year, he led United to their fourth championship in five years as captain but despite some superb moments, like his individual goal against Sunderland at Old Trafford, his performances dipped below the sublime level supporters had been used to. When he played poorly in United's European Cup semi-final defeat last month, some even said that he should be sold.

The die-hard United fans, though, never lost faith with him. The last issue of one of their fanzines, *United We Stand*, printed a picture of him on its front page under the headline "Red Till Dead". In a footballing sense, at least, they may have been right.

'United owe the Frenchman a huge debt of gratitude'

new contract that had been offered to him. Whatever the reason, the timing could not be more convenient for United.

Cantona changed the face of English football, transforming United from a team of under-achievers, labouring under the weight of not having won the championship since 1967, to the dominant force in the FA Carling Premiership.

He denied them the old first division title one last time when he helped Leeds United to win it in 1992. But after Ferguson had signed him for a bargain £1.2 million in November of that year, United became unstoppable.

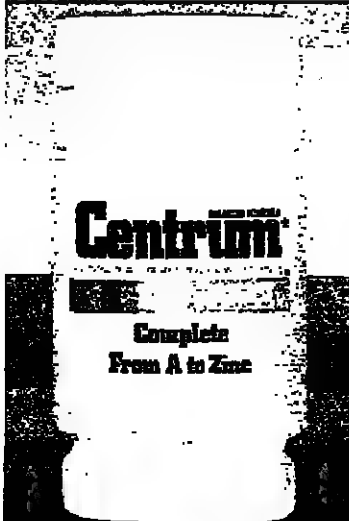
For four of the next five years, they were champions, with him as the fulcrum of the team. The only time they faltered — in 1995 when they lost the title to Blackburn Rovers — came when he was in the midst of serving an

Football stunned, page 1
Photograph, page 1
Simon Barnes, page 3
Celtic's troubles, page 27

Cantona, the pivotal figure in Manchester United's dominance of the mid-90s, confounded the football world yesterday with his decision to retire

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Centrum contains 31 vitamins, minerals and other micro-nutrients, with more essential vitamins and minerals of 100% EC RDA. When a balanced diet isn't possible, there's no more complete multivitamin/multimineral.

BBC's last Cup Final falls short of classic

DAVID POWELL

TV ACTION REPLAY

Middlesbrough's first FA Cup Final, the BBC's last, ITV takes possession of live coverage next year and the final on Saturday was more Mustoe than Leboeuf, safe rather than adventurous. There were one or two typical Des Lynam moments — "I suppose he'll be keeping his fingers crossed," he quipped after a pre-match interview with Tony Banks — but the BBC, like the game, was not always up to the flavour of the occasion.

Banks, Minister for Sport and Chelsea fan, might have known what was coming after his much-publicised crossing of fingers while swearing allegiance to the Crown. Similarly, viewers might have seen a slight Chelsea bias coming, given that Roud Gullis is one of its favourite studio analysts. Why was there an A to Z of Chelsea in the four-hour build-up, but not of Middlesbrough?

The suspicion of a preference for Chelsea was heightened after the game. "We are delighted for Chelsea, their fans, and our friend Roud," Lynam said. But miffed at losing to ITV, one fact among the thousands hurled at viewers during the 6½ hours was left unsaid: that, next year, the BBC would not be showing the FA Cup Final live, for the first time since it became a televised event. ITV has it until 2001.

One day, perhaps, an Italian or a Brazilian will be our Cup Final commentator, but not yet as Brian Moore prepares to take John Motson's shirt. Those who have appreciated Motson's Cup Final commentaries, facts and figures before emotion, will have enjoyed the opening minute of his last act.

When Di Matteo struck, Motson peaked with him. Less impressed with the beauty of the goal than its statistical merit, Motson's first words were: "Di Matteo shoots. What about this? Possibly the quickest goal in an FA Cup Final." Quickly followed by Jackie Milburn, Newcastle United, and 1955, full details of the one it beat.

The BBC made a promising, relaxed start, following the players shopping, boating and golfing in the days leading up to Wembley. Occasionally, though, it took leave of its senses. We had a phone-in competition to find the worst Cup Final song. Ten to choose from. "Real strikers," Lynam called them. He was not sure why they were doing this, but they were. Crystal Palace, clearly the worst, were robbed by Liverpool, compounding the pointlessness and stupidity of the whole thing.

Experts told us to expect a classic final and The Road to Wembley was an entertaining reminder that there had been

romance and drama at every turn. Hednesford, Wrexham, Chesterfield: early exits for the Uniteds of Manchester and Newcastle. Chelsea two-down against Liverpool in the fourth round; Middlesbrough spared by a referee's error against Chesterfield in the semi-finals.

There were walk-on parts for all sorts of people. Lynam's interview style was right for Pelt, but hopeless in the company of Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman. There were so many things we wanted to know about Middlesbrough, but the tackles lacked commitment and Gibson delighted in saying, repeatedly, that he was not going to answer.

When Motson admitted that the game was "some way short of being a classic final", and as we waited for the inevitable second Chelsea goal, one could not help but recall how the midweek Nationwide League play-offs had been closer contests. Here, Wolverhampton Wanderers were doing a Middlesbrough: all that money spent and nothing to show for it.

The same cannot be said for Sky: all that money spent and everything to show for it. They had cameras at all six play-off semi-finals and preview interviews or news reports from each one. It was not the most memorable of evenings, moderate drama as Palace won by the odd goal and Sheffield United beat Ipswich Town in extra time. Still, Sky managed to work up a frenzy of activity but scored an own goal by failing to give the results of the second and third division play-offs until 75 minutes after the final whistle.

Corretja wins first Italian Open crown

ALEX CORRETTA, of Spain, won the Italian Open tennis title for the first time yesterday, defeating Marcelo Rios, of Chile, 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 in the final in Rome to establish himself as favourite for the French Open, which starts a week today.

Corretta, the No 10 seed, who has the best record on clay this season — a surface on which he has lost just four times — avenged his defeat by Rios in Monte Carlo last month. The victory also hoisted him to eighth in the new world rankings, which will be announced today.

Corretta, 23, has reached four clay-court finals this season, winning in Rome and Estoril and losing at Monte Carlo and Munich. His willingness to rally from the baseline and wait for the right moment to attack paid off yesterday against an impetuous opponent, who attempted to hit winners from every part of the court.

Murray finishes fifth

ATHLETICS: Yvonne Murray finished a disappointing fifth in the Britannia City of Glasgow women's ten-kilometre road race yesterday after suffering a cramp in a calf muscle. Victory went to Jo Thompson, of Bristol, who overtook the ailing Murray with less than four kilometres to go. Thompson's winning time was 33min 17sec, which set a new course record, and confirmed her recent run of good form.

Murray said: "Everything was all right until six kilometres. I was after a really fast time." But she was reduced to a walking pace as Thompson cut into her 70-metre lead. "My brain told me to stop," Murray said, "but I did not want to drop out."

Fernandez ends wait

TENNIS: Mary Joe Fernandez capitalised on an erratic performance by Mary Pierce to win the final of the German Open 6-4, 6-2 in Berlin yesterday, the American's first tournament victory for two years. Pierce, who won the Italian Open last week, led 4-2 in the first set, but the French player's game then collapsed as Fernandez won eight straight games.

Marina Hingis, the world No 1, has announced that she has recovered from a knee injury and will play in the French Open, which starts next week.

O'Sullivan at double

SNOOKER: Ronnie O'Sullivan became the first player to use ambidextrous play in competition during the Doctor Martens European League at the Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough, yesterday. O'Sullivan, naturally right-handed, used left-handed play to help him establish a 5-4 lead over Stephen Hendry in the best-of-19-frames final. He played one third of the match left handed, although, during a 6-2 victory over Peter Ebdon in the semi-finals on Saturday, this ratio had been closer to 80 per cent.

Barry lift treble

FOOTBALL: Barry Town achieved an unprecedented treble by adding the Welsh Cup to their League of Wales championship and cup victories when they beat Cwmbran Town 2-1 at Ninian Park yesterday. Cohen Griffiths, the former Cardiff City striker, scored from a seventh-minute corner to calm Barry nerves and sealed the game in the 71st minute after Chris Watkins had equalised.

Junior title goes West

HOCKEY: West recovered the junior divisional title after nine years when the round-robin tournament for Under-21 players ended at Milton Keynes yesterday. By the time West defeated North 7-0, they had taken a grip on the tournament. South, set the task of beating Midlands by a nine-goal margin in the last match of the day, could only scrape home 6-5, and had to be content with second position.

Espinosa stays ahead

BOXING: Luisito Espinosa, of the Philippines, retained his World Boxing Council featherweight title in Manila on Saturday after suffering an eye injury in a clash with Manuel Medina, of Mexico. Jay Nady, the referee, was forced to end the bout in the eighth round, with Espinosa ahead on all three judges' cards, giving him a technical knockout.

Horton snatches prize

GOLF: Tommy Horton produced a run of three birdies over the final four holes to secure victory in the AIB Irish Seniors' Open at St Margaret's, Dublin, yesterday. Horton, 55, the Royal Jersey professional, closed with a 68 for a total of 208, eight under par, to snatch the top prize from the overnight leader, Noel Ratcliffe, of Australia, by two strokes.

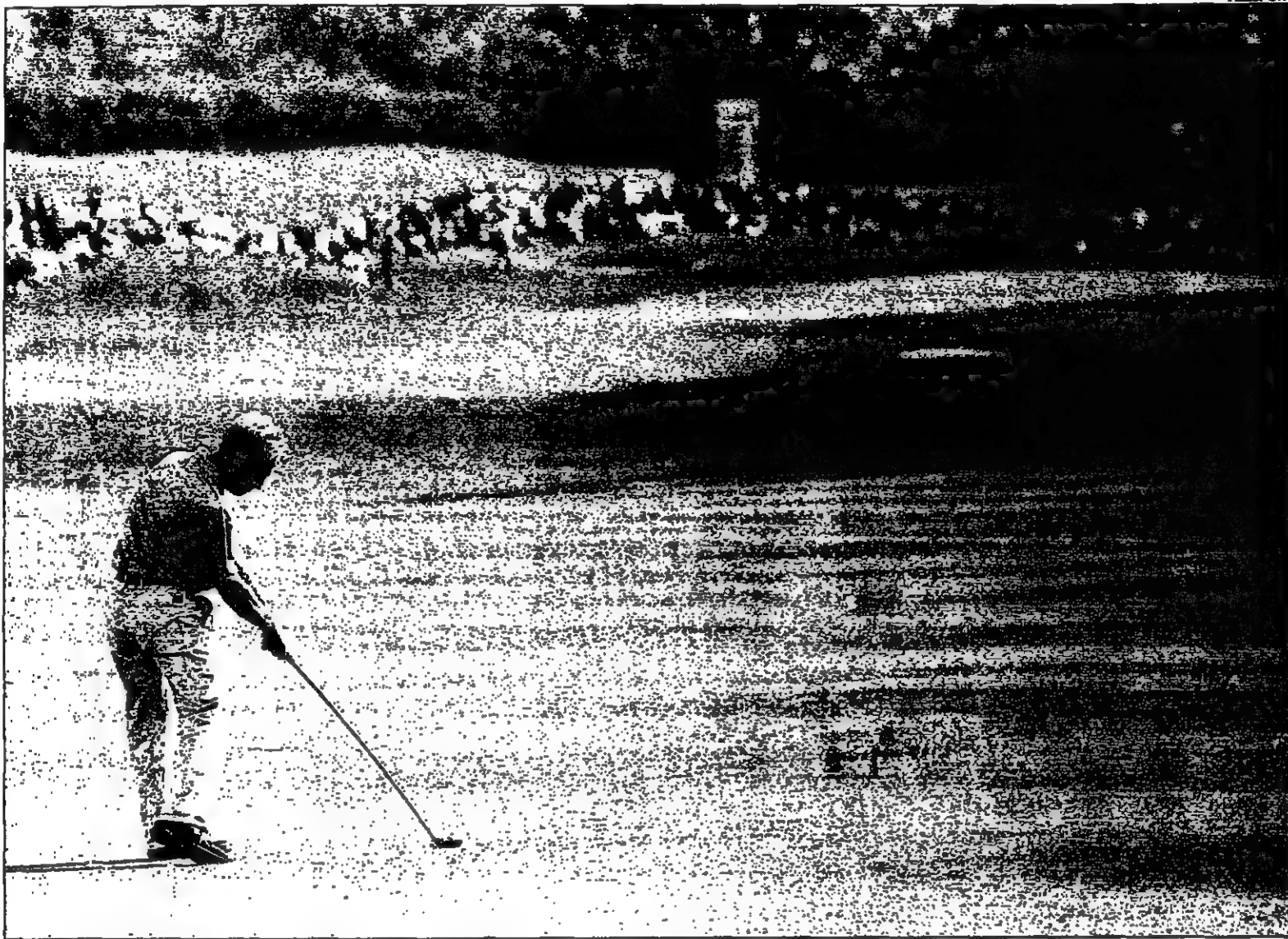
GOLF: SWEDEN STRENGTHENS CLAIMS TO PLACE IN EUROPE TEAM WITH ENGLISH OPEN VICTORY

Johansson swings into cup overdrive

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

PER-ULRIK JOHANSSON has always seemed a particularly determined player. The stocky 30-year-old Swede's command of English is excellent, his composure assured, his single-mindedness obvious. The 1995 Ryder Cup player, who won the European Open last September on a parkland course designed by an American, used all of this experience to win the Alamo English Open at Hanbury Manor, another parkland golf course designed by an American.

Johansson, the only Ryder Cup player among the leading 14 at the start of the day, made



The shadows lengthen as Johansson plays his second to the 17th in his final round of 67 in the English Open at Hanbury Manor yesterday

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

209: P.J. Johansson (Swe) 70, 69, 64, 67; 271: D. Edlund (Swe) 68, 65, 69, 69; 272: J. Townsend (US) 72, 63, 70, 67; S. Westley 69, 65, 70, 68; 273: D. Howell 70, 65, 67; R. Chapman 68, 64, 71, 70; 274: S. Torrance 72, 67, 67, 67; R. Gledhill 68, 67, 67, 67; 275: M. Mann 72, 67, 65, 67; 276: G. Orr 71, 70, 71, 64; 277: E. Berman 68, 68, 68, 75; 277: C. Montgomery 72, 68, 70, 67; S. Greaves 68, 68, 70, 67; 278: D. Clarke 72, 64, 70, 71; 278: R. Hanson 69, 67, 67, 71; 279: J. M. O'Connell 69, 72, 68, 68; P. Lunn 68, 73, 66, 71; L. Westwood 72, 64, 69, 73; 279: D. Clarke 67, 71, 68, 71; C. Sullivan 69, 74, 69, 69; R. Davis (Aus) 72, 68, 70, 69; M. A. Jimenez 69, 68, 72, 69; 280: D. Brown 70, 70, 68, 71; P. Barker 71, 68, 67, 72

his mark over the closing nine holes. He was one stroke behind Dennis Edlund, the leader, after 63 holes, had moved to level with his fellow Swede on the 64th, took a one-stroke lead on the 66th, widened it to two strokes on the 68th and then used his golfing brain to hold on for his fourth victory on the European tour.

Johansson's 67 gave him a total of 209, 19 under par, two strokes better than Edlund, whose previous best performance was twelfth in the Madeira Open last year. Jay Townsend had a 67 to share third place with Steve Webster on 16 under par and David Howell further underlined his potential by tying with Roger Chapman on 15 under par.

Johansson landed his first telling blow on the 10th, when

he chipped in from 15 yards for a birdie. The second came on the 12th, where he launched an enormous drive, followed it with a huge five-iron that went over 200 yards and boldly rapped the putt into the hole for an eagle. That took him one stroke ahead of Edlund, who was probably wondering what had hit him.

"I was surprised to win the European Open because I did not feel I was playing well," Johansson said. "I am not surprised this week. My last two rounds were 64 and 67. My swing has felt good this

week." With more than 300,000 points, Johansson, third behind Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer, has virtually confirmed his place in Europe's Ryder Cup team.

In their private duel, Montgomerie edged out José María Olazábal by one stroke, 11 under to ten under. They meet this morning in the first round of the Andersen Consulting World Championship at The Buckinghamshire.

"I can't drive and he can't chip and putt," Olazábal said. "Should be quite a match."

It is the first meeting at matchplay between the two men since the final of the 1984 Amateur at Formby, when Olazábal chipped and putted Montgomerie out of it. There is more at stake for Montgomerie, who has had only one finish in the top ten in Europe this year, than for Olazábal, whose recovery from his foot ailments has seemingly been so successful. This was Olazábal's seventh event since his return, and he remains eleventh in the Ryder Cup table.

"Tomorrow is a big day for

me," Montgomerie said. "It is important that I hold my position. I am seeded first. I hope I remain that way on Tuesday night." He grinned at the memory of their last meeting. "He was only an 18-year-old Spanish kid and I didn't think much of him. I thought I would not have any trouble with him then. I was wrong then. I hope I will be right tomorrow."

Montgomerie blames his poor golf on unusual twin circumstances: the mental repercussions of the Masters and his house move the week

after returning from the United States.

Whether or not Hanbury Manor was too easy will remain a matter of opinion. Suffice to say that it was a relief after the climatic and visual excesses of The Oxfordshire to be reminded that the beauties of a golf course can include horse chestnut trees, cedars, oaks and beeches. If, in such conditions, players take advantage, then so be it. The West course at Wentworth awaits this week, and that course, known as the Burma Road, will not yield so easily.

Lunn shakes off injury and doubt to earn tenth victory

By MEL WEBB

TWO years of injury and uncertainty about her future ended yesterday for Karen Lunn when she won the American Express Tour Players' Classic at The Tythington Club with a closing round of 71 and a total of 283, five under par.

Lunn, 31, has pursued twin careers in Europe and the United States for some years, but lost her ranking on both tours last year. In 1995, a herniated disc kept her out of action for three months and, when she tried to return — too soon — she could not do justice to herself. The result, no ranking in Europe, 113th in the United States.

Last year the death of her father hit her hard and she was unable to recapture even the faintest vestige of the form that had made her a steady

money-earner on both sides of the Atlantic. Result — again, no ranking in Europe, 132nd and a lost player's card in the United States. At long last, she has found her way again, taking \$15,000 after winning by one shot from Tina Fischer.

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

283: K. Lunn (Aus) 74, 67, 71, 71; 284: T. Fischer (US) 69, 73, 72, 73; 285: H. Woods 74, 67, 72, 70; 286: A. C. Johnston 72, 73, 74, 72; 287: M. Annai (Sri) 76, 76, 74, 73; 288: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 289: E. Kruth (Sri) 78, 69, 74, 71; 290: M. Lunn (Sri) 74, 75, 70, 73; 291: M. Lunn (Sri) 74, 74, 74, 71; 292: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 293: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 294: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 295: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 296: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 297: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 298: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 299: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73; 300: S. S. S. 75, 70, 70, 73

Arruti returns to form

JESUS MARIA ARRUTI, of Spain, secured victory by one stroke in the second Modena Classic after holding the lead from the end of the second round of the PGA European Tour event.

He beat off challenges from Mario Tadini, of Italy, who finished second in front of his home crowd, and Greg Chalmers, of Australia, who was a further three strokes back.

Arruti recorded a 69 for a

total of 271. The best British performance was by Matthew Hazelden, who finished in eleventh place on 278.

"I played perfect golf on the first two days but was tense today," Arruti said. "My golf is back to how it was five years ago and now I hope to make the main Tour."

Cheng Jun, of China, recorded the first tournament win of his career, by five strokes in the China Open in Beijing yesterday.

of Germany, and Patricia Meunier Leboeuf, of France, with Helen Wadsworth fourth on level par.

Lunn did not have things all her own way as she pursued the tenth victory of her professional career. She started two shots behind Leboeuf and one adrift of Fischer and the leeway increased by two shots when she bogeyed the 1st while her two nearest rivals both had birdies.

A double-bogey seven at the 2nd pulled Leboeuf back to Lunn, but it did not look likely to matter, so well was Fischer going for a while. The pivotal moment of the round came on the 6th green, when Fischer, holding a four-stroke lead by now, had a four-foot putt for a birdie and Lunn was six feet outside her.

If Fischer had holed the putt and Lunn had missed, the gap would have been five and that might have been too much. As it was, Fischer missed, Lunn holed, and that reduced the gap to three, which came back to two when Lunn sank a two-foot putt for birdie at the 9th.

The miss on the 6th was to be Fischer's undoing. She did birdie the 12th, but she also scattered bogeys throughout a back nine of 39. With Leboeuf's fortunes waning, Lunn had to do no more than play par golf — and that, with birdies on the 11th and 12th to offset bogeys on the 13th and 17th, is exactly what she did.

Woods has two-shot advantage

TIGER WOODS went back to the practice ground after an erratic third-round performance at the Byron Nelson Classic in Irving, Texas. Woods, the Masters champion, recorded a three-under-par 67 to ensure that he went into the final day with a two-shot lead.

"I'm going to have to play better tomorrow," Woods said, after he had produced six birdies and three bogeys on the TPC course at the Four Seasons resort for a 15-under-par total of a 195. "A lot of guys can win this."

Lee Kinkor, who had shared the second round lead with Woods, Dave Bergania, Mike Standly, Jim Furyk and Dan Forsman were all two shots behind the leader, with another seven players a further stroke adrift.

The putter has been the most reliable club for Woods all week. For the second day in a row he needed only 26 putts. "My chipping and my putting has saved me," he said. Woods gave several examples of his immaculate short game, including a delicate bump-and-run to 18 inches on the 16th for a birdie.

However, Woods, who opened the tournament with consecutive rounds of 64, was not able to distance himself from the field as he had done in his record 12-stroke victory at the Masters, where he was nine shots ahead going into the final round.

Lindley upstages the opposition

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

LETA LINDLEY'S name and looks give her a film-star quality that would not be out of place in Hollywood but, instead, she has been starring on the golf course in the McDonald's LPGA Championship at the DuPont Country Club.

Lindley, a petite, dark-haired 24-year-old Arizonan who lives in California, shared the lead with Chris Johnson, a fellow American, after three rounds. They were on 210, three under par, two shots ahead of Kim Sakk and Sherri Steinhilber. Barb Mucha was on 213, level par, with the trio of Trish Johnson, Annika Sorenstam and Judy Dickinson on 215.

Sorenstam, who has taken over from Laura Davies as the world No 1 on the Ping leaderboard, redeemed an uncharacteristically sloppy round with birdies at the last three holes, but Trish Johnson was not pleased after dropping a shot at the last. Her round of 72 contained four bogeys and three birdies, with three of the bogeys coming in a rush at the 6th, 7th and 8th.

Davies, the defending champion, wearing black, looked like thunder when she finished with a 74 that put her on 216, tied for ninth place, six shots behind Lindley and Johnson. "I can't win," Davies said, "I can't do anything the way I'm putting."

As promised she dispensed

with her Maruman Majesty putter and reinstated the Odyssey with which she had won the Standard Register Ping event in March. Three putts at each of the first two holes on Saturday did not suggest a long reign, but it was still in the bag yesterday and Davies will have calculated that she was far from an also-ran.

Lindley, who has yet to win in three years on tour, had missed seven cuts in 11 starts so far this season. She was in unfamiliar territory. Chris Johnson, with seven victories to her name and a consistent season behind her, was likely to be trickier.

In Davies's favour was a burst of rain that helped to soften the course, and the inspiration of Mardi Lunn, a good friend and fellow left-hander, who stormed round in 67, four under par, despite dropping shots at the 1st and 18th. Lunn then rushed off to telephone her sister, Karen, who won at Tythington.

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS (United States unless stated): 210: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; L. Lindley 72, 69, 69; 212: K. Sakk 69, 73, 68; S. Steinhilber 68, 71, 73; 213: E. Mucha 68, 73, 72; 215: J. Johnson 69, 70, 76; 216: L. Lindley 72, 69, 70; 217: D. Dickinson 70, 72, 68; 218: L. Davies 69, 73, 72; 219: A. Sorenstam 70, 73, 72; 220: J. Dickinson 70, 72, 68; 221: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 222: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 223: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 224: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 225: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 226: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 227: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 228: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 229: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68; 230: C. Johnson 69, 73, 68

SPEEDWAY Hancock sets pace in world battle

FROM TONY HOARE
IN PRAGUE

GREG HANCOCK won the opening world championship grand prix meeting of the season — and the second of his career — here on Saturday and Billy Hamill, the defending champion, took second place to give the United States a one-two finish.

Hancock was top scorer in the qualifying heats, with 13 from a possible 15, and Hamill was next in line with 12. But they had to outwit some stiff opposition in the A final from Tomasz Gollob and Slawomir Drobik, of Poland.

The flamboyant Hancock's only dropped points of the Czech Grand Prix came when he finished second to Gollob in his fourth ride and followed Hamill home in heat 18. Hancock, 26, who rides for Coventry in the Elite League, is now five points clear of Hamill in the world title chase.

Britain's best offering came from Chris Louis, the Ipswich rider, who grabbed seventh place. Mark Loram, of Bradford, was eleventh after finishing third in the C final. There was disappointment, though, for Simon Wigg, who will have to sit out the Swedish Grand Prix next month after finishing in fourth place.

Results, page 38

MOTOR SPORT Menu opens up lead in title contest

ALAIN MENU raced further ahead in the Auto Trader British touring car championship at Brands Hatch yesterday, but his hopes of scoring another double were dashed by James Thompson, the young Honda driver (Mark Fogarty writes).

Menu, of Switzerland, won the seventh round of the 24-race series at a canter in his Renault Laguna but, in the next race, he was the victim of an altercation which forced him out of the podium places.

Yesterday's 38-lap, 46-mile race were the first in the history of the championship to be televised live, and Thompson, 23, who finished second in yesterday's first race, sprinted away from the pole in his Honda Accord to score an unchallenged win in the other event.

However, Menu, runner-up for the past three years, looks in an unassailable position for the drivers' title, having extended his lead to 43 points over Gabriele Tarquini, of Italy.

Menu was robbed of third place in the second race by Anthony Reid, whose efforts to overtake saw them both spin off the track. The Renault driver, regained the track in fifth place and was handed fourth by Jason Plato, his team-mate, who virtually stopped to elevate Menu.

Hollioake's inclusion a welcome gamble

English cricket has always displayed an unhealthy suspicion of teenage talent. By tradition and instinct, selectors have preferred the safety of experience to the gamble on potential. So the inclusion of Ben Hollioake, for the Test Trophy internationals against Australia this week, must rank among the most dramatic and welcome for many years.

Hollioake is 19 and, as yet, uncapped by Surrey. Today, however, he will join his elder brother, Adam, in a 15-man party at Headingley. He stands to become the youngest Englishman to play international cricket in recent times and David Graveney, the chairman of selectors responsible, has no doubts about his elevation.

"He is not there just for the ride," Graveney said. "Ben is one of our all-rounders and will compete for a place on that basis. He is a genuine product of our system, having come through the age-group sides, and all the selectors have been impressed by him. He has great natural talent."

While Adam Hollioake, six years the senior brother, is a batsman first and a seam bowler second, Ben is principally a bowler. His forthright batting, however, will be a

bonus for England and his brother, now captaining Surrey, has regularly promoted him to No 3 in one-day games this season.

He is, at present, a specialist limited-overs cricketer, not even sure of his county place for championship fixtures, but this is no criticism of his promotion. England are seeking a team to challenge for the 1999 World Cup and the Hollioakes are very much part of the planning.

There has been only one instance this century of brother cricketers appearing in the same England side, Peter and Dick Richardson playing together in the third Test against West Indies at Trent Bridge in 1957. Intriguingly, the two most recent sets of brothers to play separately, Ian and Tony Greig and Chris and Robin Smith, were, like the Hollioakes, born outside England.

Both Hollioakes were born in the Victorian town of Ballarat, near Melbourne, and Adam was 12 when the family emigrated to England. The boys' father, John, found work here as an engineer but returned to Australia eight years later. Ben went back, too, but stayed only a year until Surrey offered him a contract.

Both boys speak with a pronounced Australian accent but their loyalties are no longer divided. Ben went to Millfield, coincidentally also Graveney's school, and his sporting talent was quickly identified and nurtured. He has played for England from under-14 level upwards and his ambition is readily evident. In this year's edition of *The Cricketer's Who's Who*, he gives his opinion that "youngsters are still not backed enough in the big games". It is a view, he may now have to revise gratefully.

Graveney is to take it upon himself to telephone players new to the side — and those who have been left out — after each selection meeting and the youngest newcomer was one of his earliest calls yesterday. "I don't think they rise too early in the Hollioake house-

hold and I got a sleepy, grumpy reaction until I identified myself," Graveney said. "Ben is like his brother, a very cool customer, and although he was plainly delighted, he certainly didn't show much emotion."

Ben, who was staying the night with his brother, confirmed the chairman's impression. "Adam just passed the phone, saying the call was for me, and I wasn't really awake. When I realised it was Mr Graveney, I woke up pretty fast," he said. "It's all a bit of a surprise that it has happened so quickly for me. It's only a couple of years since I was bowling at the Australians in the nets at Perth and feeling totally in awe of them." A rapid call to Perth arranged for the boys' mother, Daria, who is half-Balinese, to fly over for the matches, which begin at Headingley on Thursday.

Graveney explained the selectors' thinking: "We all believe that if a player is good enough, no matter what his age, we should get him in. I hope Ben's selection sends out a message to all young players that age is irrelevant."

If so, it will be the most rousing and effective of messages at the start of an Ashes summer and the start of a new selection regime.

Graveney and his two voting colleagues, Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, met for two hours at Lord's on Saturday evening. Before finalising their thoughts, they conducted a telephone link-up with Old Trafford, where the captain

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, applauds the England selectors' decision to give youth its chance

Graveney is to take it upon himself to telephone players new to the side — and those who have been left out — after each selection meeting and the youngest newcomer was one of his earliest calls yesterday. "I don't think they rise too early in the Hollioake house-



The Hollioake brothers, Adam, left, and Ben, reflect on their England call-ups at the Oval yesterday

and coach, Michael Atherton and David Lloyd, had the chance to put their opinions. Bob Bennett, chairman of the England management committee, was also present in Manchester in an observing capacity.

Logistical hazards were thus defeated and the outcome was a squad with which few will find serious fault. The notable omissions include Chris Lewis, Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash, while John Crawley and Chris Silverwood could be thought surprising inclusions. If a party of 15 is arguably unwieldy for three one-day games, it certainly achieves the desired degree of flexibility.

Dispensing with Lewis was a sensible measure based on his unreliable fitness. "We had been assured he would be fit from today but he has not played much recent cricket and we considered it an unnecessary risk," Graveney said. In Hick's case, he has simply not made enough runs to be seriously considered.

Graveney said the two players that he would be making a particular point of calling were Ramprakash and Chris Adams. "Both of them were built up to think they might be chosen and both have been playing well," he said. "There

will be a number of others who are disappointed today, but I shall be getting it across to all of them that the door is not closed."

Crawley was not entirely a form selection, following scores of 0, 2, 0 and 0 in his first four Benson and Hedges Cup games, but Graveney explained: "He is one of our established batsmen and is regarded as our best player of wrist-spin. That was probably the deciding factor."

Philip DeFreitas has lost count of the number of times

Australians humbled 31
Angry Caddick 32
Sunday scoreboards 32

he has been dropped and recalled by England but this latest selection is merited, after a series of impressive early-season spells. Silverwood, probably the spare seam bowler, represents continuity from the winter tour and Ashley Giles, gaining his first senior selection as second spinner to Robert Croft, was a success on the England A tour of Australia last winter. On another day, he might have been making the morning headlines. But Giles is no longer 19.

EQUESTRIANISM: IRELAND RALLY TOO LATE IN NATIONS CUP EVENT AT WINDSOR

Billington clears way for Britain's success

By Jenny MacArthur

GREAT Britain, bolstered by two stirring clear rounds from Geoff Billington on Virtual Village It's Otto, gained their third successive win in the Samsung Nations Cup on the final day of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, yesterday. The Welshman, who for a brief moment looked set for their first win since 1937, had to settle for second place after rallying too late. Germany, fielding their second team, were third.

"They were brilliant," Ronnie Massarella, the British team manager, pronounced after receiving the Prince of Wales Trophy from the

going, the 12-fence course, designed by Bob Ellis, proved more difficult than it first appeared. In the opening round, in which Britain were drawn first, only Billington and Holger Wulschper, of Germany, on Caprioli, had clear rounds.

Nick Skelton, the first to go, had four faults on his Olympic mare, Virtual Village Showtime. Robert Smith, who thought his Senator Tees Hanauer was "short of a run", hit the first part of the combination at the twelfth fence and also collected 0.75 time faults. More surprisingly, Michael Whitaker, on the more youthful Virtual Village Ashley, also had time faults and a mistake at the fifth.

Their total score, though, of 8.50 was quickly put in perspective. Holland and Belgium dropped out of contention with 48 and 30 faults respectively.

What Tommy Wade, the Ireland team manager, said to his four riders before the start of the second round proved effective. Their first three riders — Peter Charles, their European champion, Tom Slattery and Trevor Coyle — all produced clear rounds, although Charles, on the eight-year-old, Dolly, incurred what would prove an expensive 0.50 time fault. Skelton, for Britain, looked set for a clear round but just rolled the back pole on the final fence. Billington, who produced the only double clear round last year, kept Britain in the hunt with a second clear.

Although the Dutch-bred It's Otto, the winner of the grand prix on Friday night, wastes time with his extravagant jumping, Billington has learnt to cut corners to compensate. "He's got so much scope I can turn in shorter to a fence than a lot of the others," he said.

The tension had grown by the time Smith, the third to go for Britain, entered the arena. Smith, who won the car for the leading rider of the show, was faultless until the last line fence fell. Ireland now had the coveted trophy in their sights.



Billington, on Virtual Village It's Otto, goes clear for Britain at Windsor yesterday

The excitement was short-lived, however. Eddie Macken, so often the backbone of the team in the past, faulted at the third on Fan Schalkhaar, and, knowing that he could not improve the team score (the best three results count) retired. A Great

Britain win was now assured but Michael Whitaker extended the lead with a fluent clear round on Ashley.

Although he did not need to compete in the second round to secure the victory, his performance counts towards selection for the Britain team

for the European championships in August.

Anna Savage, the Australian cross-country rider, died in hospital in Adelaide yesterday from injuries sustained in a fall during a competition at the Naracoorte equestrian trials on Saturday.

Rogers, the 16th League side's veteran striker, was dismissed after tussling with Robin Taylor on the touchline, wrestling him to the ground in an arm lock as they challenged for an innocuous ball. Rogers was shoved by Foster, the Woking defender, who, in the first half, had been treated for the effects of an elbow in his face from the

Di Canio outburst adds to Celtic's troubles

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

SOMETIMES it seems that Celtic are just Middlesbrough minus the cup final appearances. The details differ, but there are the same problems and pleasures that foreign signings can bring. At the moment, the advantages may have slipped Celtic's mind, so great is their anger over the latest salvo of complaints from Paolo Di Canio.

The Italian alleged in an open letter to supporters that a gentleman's agreement, thought to concern taxable benefits, had not been honoured. Indignant over the accusation of impropriety, Fergus McCann, the Celtic chairman, fined the player two weeks' wages, about £24,000. Di Canio is now threatening to challenge this punishment in court.

If calm does descend on the supporters, it will be the result of weariness. Their team has no further games to play and the season is meeting its last few obligations. On Saturday, Hibernian beat Airdrie 1-0 in a testy first leg of the relegation

play-off. After the return match on Thursday, there is only the Tennesis Scottish Cup final and Scotland's build-up to the World Cup qualifying game in Belarus on June 8 to be completed.

Followers of Celtic may have had enough of football, but one man at the club has run out of games forever. On Friday, Paul McStay, after 16 years on the staff, announced that recurring problems with a damaged ankle had forced his retirement. The news coincided with the latest outburst from Di Canio and so induced bouts of moralising. One man

Woking win battle to prove cup pedigree

Dagenham and Red 0
Woking 1
(after extra time)

By Walter Gammie

IT WAS mighty hard work but Woking, the Vauxhall Conference club, enhanced their standing as non-League football's cup kings of the Nineties by winning the FA Umbro Trophy for the third time in four years before an enthusiastic crowd of 24,376 at Wembley yesterday.

The winning goal was scored in the tenth minute of extra time by Darran Hay, a resounding far-post header from a corner by Clive Walker. It finally broke the stubborn resistance of a Dagenham and Redbridge side that had been rendered all the more gallant for having stuck to their task with only ten men after the sending-off of Tony Rogers in the 63rd minute.

Rogers, the 16th League side's veteran striker, was dismissed after tussling with Robin Taylor on the touchline, wrestling him to the ground in an arm lock as they challenged for an innocuous ball. Rogers was shoved by Foster, the Woking defender, who, in the first half, had been treated for the effects of an elbow in his face from the

forward. Pratt joined in and all but five of the players flocked to skirmish briefly.

Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, believed the sending-off paved the way for victory. "When you are down to ten men on this pitch, you're going to struggle. It's very energy-sapping out there. What we had to do then was to use our brains and keep the ball. I thought we did it pretty well," he said.

Cracks at last appeared in the Dagenham rearguard and it was left to the magnificent goalkeeping of Gothard to keep Woking at bay. He twice tipped over from Walker and superbly blocked a shot from Taylor, let in by a slip from Culverhouse, and maintained his defiance in extra time, pushing the ball away at full stretch from Hay to set up the fateful corner. Walker found the height to beat Creaser's leap and Hay, a scorer in Woking's first Trophy triumph over Runcorn in 1994, emphatically doubled his Wembley goal tally.

DAGENHAM AND REDBRIDGE (3-2-3-2): P. Gothard — D. Culverhouse, S. Connors, G. O'Connell — D. Jacques (sub: L. Donk, T. Smith), C. Davidson — D. Pratt (sub: G. Naylor, B. J. D. Parnham, A. Rogers, J. Simpson (sub: V. John, 63)).
WOKING (3-4-1-2): L. Batty — B. Brown, T. Howard, S. Foster — S. Wye, S. Thompson (sub: T. Jones, 115), A. Ellis, R. Taylor — S. Sheik (sub: M. Wye, 108) — C. Walker, J. Jackson (sub: D. Hay, 77).
Referee: J. Wynn

For Poland v England just hit



Last stop for season's lost causes

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

The boing of the Duke and Duchess of Kent was the bit that worried me on Saturday. "I had no idea the North East was so anti-monarchist," I yelled to my companion in Wembley Stadium's Olympic Gallery, as below us 35,000 Middlesbrough fans booed, hissed and whistled at ear-splitting volume.

What grudge could this lot possibly hold against the Kents? I racked my brains. Personally, I was once held up at a hairdresser's by a flying visit from the Duchess, but good grief, I forgave her. In any case, it is hard to believe that any one woman, however well coiffed, could pull the same me-first trick on the entire population of Middlesbrough.

All soon became clear, however, when they started chanting "Three points! Three points! Three points! Ah-ha. Their odium was directed at the big chap from the FA, and not the Kents at all. This was a political demonstration, a demand for justice, and as such almost as uncalculated as the booing of defenceless nobles.

Middlesbrough really believe they should get their three points back, you see. But it won't wash. In 1952 (as we all recall), something similar happened — Britain went to bed on September 2, and woke up on the fourteenth. Suspecting a dastardly cheat, the populace ran about yelling "Give us back our eleven days!" Well, the three-points cause looks as futile as that one, to me.

But to the match, the match! What a fab opening goal, eh? Any player who wears his socks over his knees in that splendid medieval fashion is obviously a chap with imaginative gifts. Poses for stained-glass windows in his spare time, that man. But it helped Di Matteo find the space for that first goal, I think, that the infuriating Emerson was playing his missing-the-bus football, of which there has been far too much recently.

What happens, you see, is that Emerson accelerates ("Wait for me!"), then realises that the bus is about to draw away ("Ding! Ding!"), and



Middlesbrough fans show their anger at the loss of three points deducted by the FA, in a protest that soured the opening ceremonies at Wembley

instantly gives up, with a peevish gesture. It is as if he hears that "Ding! Ding!" in his head, truly, Emerson missed the bus right at the beginning, when the ball was passed across him to Di Matteo, which is why I mention it. (I also mention it because, presumably, he won't be playing in England any more.)

Everyone is saying it was not a great Cup Final, but in terms of the team-skill on show, it was certainly absorbing. And in terms of the result, obviously, it was more than satisfactory. A smile from Ruud Gullit is hard-won these days, and, on the final whistle on Saturday, we got beams of joy, positive beams.

But, while his team celebrated wildly with body surfs on the pitch, and Zola clowned for the adoring crowd, Gullit still held back modestly in his dark suit, watching pensively from a distance. Was this just force of habit? I watched him through binoculars, and he

obligingly struck that dark, still, thrilling romantic attitude which may simply disguise a bout of indigestion, but which looks impressively like, dammit, he is having thoughts that lie too deep for tears again.

The man sitting to my left never quite entered the spirit of the occasion, and I will admit I was concerned on his behalf. He was young and Australian, and had paid a tout £400 for his ticket, so you would think he would have made the most of it. But it was hard work maintaining his enthusiasm. "Royal Marines!" I said, encouragingly, pointing. "Top military band. A real privilege. Cliff Richard, look, Sir Cliff." It was important to me, you see, that he got his money's worth, even though, technically, his payment of £400 for a ticket was not my fault at all.

But, as he had never heard

the tune of *Land of Hope and Glory* before, I'm afraid I gave up, and left him to his own devices. Two very aggressive and foul-mouthed Middlesbrough fans in the row behind made a point of intimidating him (they scared the daylight out of me), and he left very promptly at the close of play.

'A smile from Gullit is hard won and we got positive beams'

But his situation affected my feelings towards the match, because I could never believe it was worth £400 of this man's money. "Give us another goal!" I wanted to yell throughout the scoreless wastes after Di Matteo's opener. "This man only works in a pub!"

Is this the end of the season now? I suppose it is. I have

never experienced the end of a season before. Despite the glorious antics of the winners on Saturday (and didn't they look handsome?) there seems a lack of ceremony about the way it all screeches to a standstill. Are there no formal goodbyes for all those foreigners who this week (presumably) go home in disgrace, or bounce off in high dudgeon, or limp off in a beany-hat?

Juninho said on *Match of the Day* that he must do what's best for his career (career), and everybody accepts that. We wish his career all the best, and understand perfectly that it is a separate entity in its own right. As for Emerson, however, we have but one message: Hey, Emerson, don't miss the bus this time, ha ha ha!

Meanwhile, most of those happy foreigners at Chelsea look safe and sound, which is nice. Leboeuf should let his hair grow back. Petrescu

should realise how cute he is. And Vialli should cheer up, because (as we all know) Dennis Wise loves him. I particularly love the way Zola's kit hangs quite differently from everyone else's, reminiscent of being the one kid at school whose mum optimistically made the school uniform from approximately the right material to approximate the right pattern, and did not get away with it.

On a personal note, I cannot help thinking that, a year ago, Zola was the author of *Germinal*, Emerson an impenetrable American philosopher, Newton the greatest scientist of all time, and Hughes the poet laureate. So, a lot can happen to a girl's perceptions in a year. When Jimmy Hill said on the BBC's coverage that it was nice to see Ruud Gullit well-dressed for once, I found myself gasping. "And what on earth do you know about that?" Oh dear. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Emerson takes a slow walk into ignominy

STEVE McMANAMAN



on the sad tale of two Brazilians

After watching the FA Cup Final on Saturday, my overwhelming feeling was one of sympathy for Middlesbrough. I don't know what they have done to upset the Gods, but it must have been serious because the fates have conspired against them spectacularly this season.

After all they have been through, you would expect them to get a break. Not a bit of it. Everything that could possibly have gone wrong in the Cup Final did go wrong — and then went wrong even more.

I am sure that, after the disappointment of relegation, and the inquest into that, Bryan Robson was drilling into his side the absolute necessity to get off to a steady, assured start. I can hear his pre-match talk now: "Keep it tight, keep the ball." What a calamity, then, to concede a poor goal as early as they did.

Football is as much mental as it is physical, and it is impossible to exaggerate the trauma of relegation. It would have had a dramatic impact on the confidence of the Middlesbrough players. However much they attempted to repair the damage in midweek, it would have all gone out of the window as soon as that goal went in.

I bet there were plenty of Middlesbrough players who started to think then that it would not be their day. That feeling would have been magnified when first Ravanelli and then Musoke went off injured.

Even after such a disastrous start, things still contrived to get worse for Middlesbrough. *Match of the Day* cameras showed that Festa, should have received the benefit of the doubt when he jockeyed just before half-time. Instead, an over-eager linesman ruled offside. It was never going to be Middlesbrough's day.

Of course bad luck was not the only reason for their downfall. Chelsea's tactics played their part, and they appeared stronger, and more solid, in the areas that mattered. They were disciplined at the back, and powerful too. Their game-plan appeared to be centred around strangling the creative life out of Juninho and Emerson, and it worked because they took an early control of the midfield.

Middlesbrough lacked penetration because they persisted with a single forward and little support. That played into Chelsea's hands given that they were prepared to close the game down as soon as they had scored their goal. I was surprised that, even in the last 15 or 20 minutes, Middlesbrough did not throw another man forward. So much at

stake and nothing to lose by that stage. It was hardly a gamble.

My sympathy after the game went out to Juninho, who gave absolutely everything, even though it was clear that things were going against him. He never stopped trying, but he really needed to be in two places at once. He kept going forward, in order to offer a threat up front, but Middlesbrough also needed his passing in midfield to provide the opportunities in the first place. This is where I would have to lay some of the blame at Emerson's feet, because he was culpable in the lack of presence exercised by the Middlesbrough midfield.

He never really got into the game, and appeared to spend much of the time strolling around. Given that it was possibly his last match for the club, then, you would have expected him to have been a little more committed. Because he was not providing the service for Juninho, his side always lacked a cutting edge. Such a waste, it was possible to point the finger at the midfield for both of the Chelsea goals.

For the first, they ambled back, and never got near Emerson or Di Matteo to make a challenge. For the second, Emerson lost the ball in midfield and they all stood and watched instead of chasing back.

Middlesbrough will lose players during the summer, and what they must do now is regroup quickly and bring in the sort of players who will provide a positive note in the first division. After the massive disappointment of this season, it would be easy for them to wallow for the next couple of years. For the sake of Bryan Robson, who is a thoroughly decent man and manager, I hope that they can avoid such a fate.

Juninho first to cry tears for Middlesbrough fears

BLUE Is The Colour thumped out of the Wembley Tannoy as Chelsea embarked on their extended celebrations after securing their second FA Cup Final victory. More appropriate may have been *Cry Me A River*, given the propensity for tears at the famous old stadium.

They flowed faster than at a Gasconne family get-together. It started even before the match kicked off, when an emotional Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, shed tears at the rousing reception he got from his club's supporters on arriving at the ground.

Frank Leboeuf, the Chelsea defender, did likewise as he experienced the electric atmosphere during the warm-up for the first time. Fabrizio Ravanelli cried in frustration as injury forced him to leave the field early, and buckets flowed at the end on both sides as the realisation of the result dawned.

Most pertinent of all, however, were the tears that trickled down the face of Juninho, not at Wembley, but at Elland Road the previous Sunday. Speaking after a painful Cup Final experience, he said it was a week ago that he realised what Middlesbrough had lost.

Despite a driving, irrepressible personal performance, Juninho felt that Chelsea had secured victory even before the game kicked off. "I cried not just for relegation, but for the effect it would have," he said. "The things that happened when we were relegated affected the team at Wembley. We could not expect to play well after all that has happened — our concentration was not right coming into the final

David Maddock sees the emotions of a big occasion overflow before and after the match

and it came at a very bad time." The Brazilian cried, too, because he knew that he would be forced to leave Middlesbrough, despite a genuine affection for the club. The defeat on Saturday capped what he described as "the worst season of my life", and Juninho finally admitted that he would be leaving Teesside.

"The most important thing for my career now is to be in the Brazilian squad," he said. "I must do the best thing for me to get into the squad, and I'm sorry for Middlesbrough but I don't think playing in the first division will get me that place."



Ravanelli feels the pain

Robson misses the point in dignified performance

Oliver Holt believes the Middlesbrough manager is wrong to blame the FA for his team's relegation

BRYAN ROBSON, the Middlesbrough manager, has gained a great deal of unwanted practice at being dignified in defeat in the past few weeks. On Saturday, an hour after the last vestige of achievement had been ripped from his team, he gave a command performance.

He must have been close to breaking point after a month in which Middlesbrough succumbed to the underdogs, Leicester City, in the Coca Cola Cup final, slithered to the disaster of relegation, and then saw the final chance of redemption ripped away from them by Chelsea.

Outside, in the stadium corridors, there was anger amid the grieving of the Middlesbrough fans. Seething, it raged around with the thousands of departing fans, searching for any scapegoats it could find.

It alighted first on the executives of the Football Association, Keith Wiseman and

Graham Kelly, mistakenly blaming them for the FA Premier League decision to dock Middlesbrough three points for failing to fulfil the fixture with Blackburn Rovers on December 21, which was the defining moment of their season. Then it turned to the media.

Robson exhibited a few tell-tale signs of the bitterness welling up inside him before, when he was asked if he had any regrets, whether he would still lavish the sums he had on Ravanelli, Juninho, Emerson and Festa if he could be given a chance to start again, fighting to keep his control, he bit back. "Everyone keeps knock-

ing the foreign lads," he said, "but it is amazing how everyone wants to buy them. I made mistakes because we got relegated and I will try to assess the season and see where it has gone wrong."

"The season has really been disappointing only because of the relegation. Losing in both finals was a disappointment, of course, but it was an achievement to get to them in the first place. If we had got another couple of points to keep us safe, people would have said what a tremendous season we had had."

It has been impossible not to admire Robson for his stoicism in the face of so much adversity, but, equally, it was hard to agree with him when he was asked just what had gone wrong with Middlesbrough's season. The reply was: "Three points."

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Premier League's decision to dock those points — and few inside the game have argued against it — to suggest that finishing on the cup of relegation having spent so lavishly would have been acceptable is stretching credibility.

Robson's failure was his inability to provide a competent supporting cast for the skeleton of superstars he bought, his willingness to surround them instead with Nationwide League journeymen.

That failure had nothing to do with the Premier League and cannot be blamed on the imagined jealousies of a south-coast-based media. If they learn that lesson, and prosper because of it, Middlesbrough will be welcomed back into the FA Carling Premiership with open arms.

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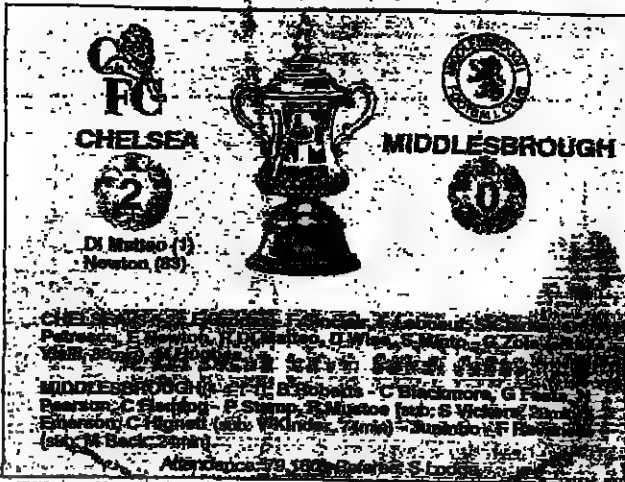
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Cup Final triumph promises new dawn for Stamford Bridge's cosmopolitan collection

Chelsea exorcise ghost of wasted years



By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

GIANLUCA VIALLI had begged for five minutes, but Ruud Gullit gave him two. The Chelsea player-manager used the Italian's late entrance like a secret sign, a sort of footballing masonic handshake, to let the faithful know that, after 27 years of waiting for a major trophy, the celebrations at the end of the 116th FA Cup Final could begin.

It was a romantic touch, a bit like Enzo Bearzot's sentimental sop to Franco Causio in the dying minutes of the 1982 World Cup final, a backwards nod to the flawed Chelsea tradition of Hudson, Osgood and Cooke, the fair players who were in their pomp when the Cup last came to the Fulham Road in 1970.

Gianfranco Zola, the creator of the decisive second goal, the man who has done so much to

The difference, perhaps, between this triumph and the replay victory over Leeds United in 1970 was that, this time, there is the promise of lasting success to come. The Cup Winners' Cup, as it was in 1971, should be well within Chelsea's reach now that the Champions' League automatically takes the top two teams from each country.

In the long-term, too, the future looks bright. Ken Bates, the chairman, has at last established a solid, money-spinning infrastructure at Stamford Bridge that will allow Chelsea to match Manchester United and Newcastle United in the transfer market.

To complement that, Gullit has imposed his will on the club and established a squad system that brooks no dissent. Unlike Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, who was undone by the unreliability and personality weaknesses of men such as Emerson and Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Dutchman bought players with character as a criterion as much as talent.

It is that, coupled with greater strength in depth, greater quality among the British-born players, that made Chelsea a success as a home for the foreign legion this season and Middlesbrough a failure.

On Saturday it was like watching vultures circling carrion. Chelsea picked the rotting meat off the bones of a Middlesbrough team that had collapsed from exhaustion and the long suffering of what they believe was a season of victimisation and died from the trauma of relegation.

After the month they have had, the writing was on the wall long before Di Matteo ran on to Wise's pass just inside his own half with the game only seconds old, and aided by the fine diversionary run of Hughes, advanced to within 25 yards of the goal before sending his fierce drive dipping over Roberts.

Just 42 seconds had elapsed, beating the Wembley record established by Jackie Milburn, of Newcastle United, when he headed his team's opening goal against Manchester City in 1955 after 45 seconds. Poor Middlesbrough. The match that was to have been their consolation amid the tears was over almost before it had begun.

For the first 20 minutes, Chelsea were so dominant that it seemed Middlesbrough would be overrun. Di Matteo, largely overlooked in the pre-match obsession with Zola and Juninho, was everywhere, clipping a delicate ball through to Minto with the outside of his right foot, which the left wing back should have converted, then playing another pass to Petrescu that resulted in the Romanian's chip being headed off the line by Pearson.

By then, Ravanelli had limped off with a recurrence of the hamstring injury that ruled him out of Middlesbrough's relegation run-in and Mustoe had fallen victim



Rhapsody in blue: Di Matteo strikes the fastest goal in an FA Cup Final at Wembley before, below, launching into a running celebration with Zola, his Italian compatriot



Gullit: Cup romance

inspire Chelsea this season, bowed in mock homage to Vialli as he made way for him. Vialli, a bit-part player since his compatriot arrived in west London, bowed back and sprinted on to the Wembley pitch for a brief taste of glory. Zola punched the air with the delight of a man who has just volleyed a winner as he walked to the bench, and, a few hastily constructed moves later, it was all over. The blue, white and yellow sections of the ground to the right of the royal box erupted in flag-waving euphoria.

They exorcised the best part of three decades of frustration in the next 45 minutes as the players complemented Roberto Di Matteo's fastest goal in an FA Cup Final at Wembley with one of the slowest laps of honour.

There was the traditional picture in front of the huge phalanx of photographers, there was the donning of scarves and hats thrown from the stands. And, as a finale, the whole squad linked hands across the pitch and ran from the halfway line to the goal-mouth before hurrying themselves on to the floor.

Eventually, said, they made their triumphant way back to the dressing-room to start again in private and spray champagne. "It's the yen," Dennis Wise, the captain, yelled as Gullit walked in with the Cup and the player-manager just smiled.



Gullit translates talent into triumph

Long after the dressing-rooms had emptied, Juninho and Zola, two players whose flair has transcended the English season, briefly embraced in the Wembley tunnel. "I congratulate you," Juninho said to Zola. "For your composure and your passing, you deserve to win the Cup."

With that they parted, Zola to the certainty that Chelsea have reinvigorated his standing in the Italy team, Juninho convinced that he must find another club because Middlesbrough cannot now help him to be a part of Brazil's defence of the World Cup next year.

Two men, standing almost equal at 5ft 4in, rated the most skilful in their adopted homeland. Two men who, though the 116th FA Cup Final was never the most fluent nor dynamic, are a part of the globalisation of football in the modern country. The difference in their fortunes this past nine months, the heady success for Chelsea and the triple despair on Teesside, prove that talents can be imported, but harmony has to be created from within.

In short, Ruud Gullit, a player of the modern world, knew the backgrounds, the

cultures, the temperaments of all the players that he purchased on Chelsea's behalf. Bryan Robson, the doughty English warrior, chose talents from another world and, alas, seemed unable to integrate their skills into the physical and mental demands of the English game. Unkind as that may sound, kicking Robson when he is down, it is difficult to dispute. This cup final, containing more foreigners than Englishmen, was a tribute to Gullit.

The first foreign coach to win a significant domestic prize for an English team, he is a complex character. He admitted he was emotionally empty, completely drained by the build-up to Wembley.

Gullit, sometimes visited by self-doubt and vulnerability, had Ted Troost, his personal mentor, sitting behind him on the bench at Wembley. Indeed Troost, a practitioner of *heptamomie*, which combines meditation with psychology, has been in the background at Chelsea throughout Gullit's first year as player-coach. He was brought into the dressing-room to work with the players before the semi-final, and was a hidden but important part of the preparations for the final.

It is part of the humility of Gullit that, though he is able

ROB HUGHES



At Wembley

to speak his mind in each of the tongues of his imports, he seeks every advantage to assist in the bonding of his team.

In that same tunnel where Juninho and Zola had embraced, Gullit and Troost stood side by side. "I asked Ted to speak to the players for the semi-final," Gullit said. "The reaction with the group, working on communication and dealing with stress, was good."

"I didn't want Ted to help with the physical side, because the staff that we have including this season the sprinter, Ade Mafe, as fitness

adviser, was good enough. But, as I saw the final come closer and closer, I wondered how we would deal with being made favourites."

"I remembered that Barcelona were favourites when I was at Milan, and we beat them 4-0. On the other hand, I was a part of Milan when we started favourites, and beat Bucharest, also 4-0."

It actually goes back further, to moments in the 1988 European championship when Gullit and Marco Van Basten, benefited from the counselling of Troost. "We were like Formula One cars, and Ted was our mechanic," was how Van Basten put it. Last year, Troost also advised Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon tennis champion.

Gullit had already observed that bringing in foreigners was a two-way process. "The foreigners gave another view of what it is to be professional," Gullit said on Saturday. "But also the foreigners learnt from the English players."

As he spoke, Robson, defeated and contemplating the options of selling Juninho, Ravanelli and Emerson, passed by. A manager with the trauma, the obligation, of disassembling what he had attempted to build, with little option but to retrench around

dependable British souls who might, with effort and luck, bring Middlesbrough back to the FA Carling Premiership.

Robson sat, silent and forlorn, through Wembley's humid and, for him, dark hour. Gullit, slightly out of character, had been on his feet before half-time, shouting to players too distant to hear. "They were playing the ball backwards, I wanted them to control the game by going forwards. It was a matter of attitude."

Indeed, and Troost, the man who had become his sounding board on attitude, concluded: "This has been my first experience in England. I knew that here there is much stress on the physical, but I tried to speak with the players, to ask them to be more relaxed. You can do this best if you save something of your energy... and, even among the English, I found that they were open to dialogue on this."

Dialogue, in very nearly a dozen languages, lay behind the winning of the Cup. It already seems so long ago that Graham Taylor was pilloried at Wembley for introducing John Gardner as a psychologist to the England national side.

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CRICKET

Sussex feel force of Caddick's ire

By Simon Wilde

TAUNTON (Sussex won toss): Somerset (4pts) beat Sussex by six wickets

ANDREW CADDICK had good reason to believe he would be named in the England Test cricket party yesterday. After all, he was their most successful bowler when they last played, in New Zealand during the winter, and is bowling well for Somerset in one-day matches. But when the morning telephone call came from the selectors it informed him that he was surplus to requirements.

Caddick was upset — according to one source, he was "breathing fire and thunder" — and proceeded to take it out on unfortunate Sussex, who consequently lost this Axa Life League match with a minimum of fuss. They were dismissed for 109

Phillips and Khan with successive balls in his final over and only narrowly failed to secure a hat-trick, his first ball to Robinson, Sussex's last man, eluding both bat and off stump.

He took his sweater with Sussex 99 for nine, having added only 39 runs from 15 overs for the loss of six wickets while Caddick was operating. The two other wickets that fell during this period went to Kerr and Mushaq. Caddick has now taken 17 wickets in one-day matches this season at a cost of 15.94 apiece, though he has conceded runs at more than four per over.

The only batsman who kept Caddick at bay was Taylor, who was at the crease for all but three overs of the Sussex innings for his unbeaten 40 and provided further evidence of the wisdom of his signing from Kent.

Somerset were little troubled in reaching their target and won with nearly 17 overs to spare. Jarvis, bowling as well as he has for years, produced an opening spell of genuine pace but failed to make the breakthrough that might have saved the match from a predictable conclusion.

Lathwell anchored the Somerset innings with an unbeaten 53 from 65 balls and — as is customary when the force is with him — played some difficult shots with ridiculous ease. There was no pressure in the situation but he and Ecclestone, who thumped five fours in his 22, matched each other blow for blow in adding an entertaining 40 in five overs.

The match was played on the pitch used for the rain-affected championship fixture but remained true and offered Sussex no excuse for another feeble performance that saw them beaten for the fourth time in the competition this season. What must worry them is not that they are losing — which is perhaps only to be expected in their present predicament — but that their selection appears so cock-eyed.

Depleted by injuries, they nevertheless left out Athey, who had completed a fine century the previous day, because he is deemed to score too slowly. They started the season thinking that about Taylor, but quickly revised their opinion. They are in a mess and no mistake.

TABLE										
	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR			
Lancashire (9)	3	3	0	0	0	12	14.82			
Kent (10)	3	3	0	0	0	12	11.96			
Essex (17)	3	3	0	0	0	12	11.17			
Somerset (6)	4	2	1	0	1	10	13.96			
Surrey (11)	4	2	1	0	1	10	1.45			
Yorkshire (3)	3	2	1	0	0	8	13.52			
Nottingham (2)	4	2	1	0	0	8	1.47			
Warwickshire (4)	3	2	1	0	0	8	1.17			
Middlesex (7)	3	2	1	0	0	8	1.17			
Leeds (12)	3	2	1	0	0	8	11.63			
Gloucestershire (16)	3	2	1	0	0	8	32.74			
Northants (6)	4	1	1	0	0	6	6.05			
Worcestershire (8)	4	1	1	0	0	6	0.52			
Glamorgan (13)	4	1	1	0	0	6	1.77			
Derbyshire (11)	4	0	3	0	0	0	11.83			
Hampshire (15)	4	0	3	0	0	0	22.06			
Durham (16)	3	0	3	0	0	0	15.85			
Sussex (14)	4	0	4	0	0	0	24.71			

(1996 positions in brackets)

with eight of their 40 overs unused and Caddick was their chief tormentor with a return of four for 19, only marginally inferior to his best figures in the competition.

Caddick entered the attack in the twelfth over with Sussex 60 for three and scoring briskly despite the loss of Greenfield, Rao and Mark Newell, all victims of the early swing the white ball provided Parsons and Rose. Caddick not only applied a brake on the scoring, but put the batsmen under pressure with his ability to move the ball away.

This soon accounted for Keith Newell, who edged his fifth ball into the hands of Harden at slip, and in his fifth over Moores was also beaten through the air and fell leg-before. Caddick added the scalps of



Trainer is stranded by Martin Bicknell's third ball as Surrey strike an early blow against Gloucestershire at the Oval yesterday

Hollooake makes the difference

By Barney Spender

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss): Surrey (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by five wickets

SURREY, the defending champions, picked themselves up from their county championship defeat on Friday to sneak home with a scrambled single off the last ball against Gloucestershire yesterday, earning a win that keeps them up with the early leaders of the Axa Life League.

Adam Hollooake was their match-winner. As if to celebrate his call to the England squad for the Texaco Trophy series against Australia, he thrashed a quick 30 from 20 balls to wrest the match from Gloucestershire. With Surrey needing 26 off the last three overs, Hollooake took them to the brink with three boundaries before holing out to Shaun Young. Just two runs

were required from the last seven balls, but a fine final over from Young frustrated Shahid until the batsmen just scraped home off the last ball.

Yet, apart from its finale, this match was, for the most part, a bore and this was one of those days when American visitors can be excused for thinking that the English are more than a little eccentric to endure such a dull, tedious, forgettable occasion. Much of the interest rested on the performances of Surrey's four England men, particularly the Holloos, and, while the selectors will be pleased to know that they all contributed something, there was a nagging feeling that Adam Hollooake excepted, they might have done rather more.

Launching the Surrey chase for 177 after the early loss of Brown, Alec Stewart produced one of his little cameos, with 26 from 39 balls,

before, having blasted Young for two boundaries off successive deliveries, he went for another drive and edged to Russell. He needed more time in the middle, having failed in his four championship innings to date, and the Australians will have noticed that his footwork is not at its best.

His dismissal brought an end to the boundaries for the next 20 overs as Graham Thorpe poked around to make 38 from 60 balls before nicking Alleyne to Russell. Earlier, Martin Bicknell had threatened to settle the game even before the spectators had taken their seats. With the third delivery of the match, he sent back Trainer and then removed the dangerous pair of Lynch and Young in quick succession, both leg-before. He finished with the creditable figures of three for 24.

Fortunately for those spectators, Gloucestershire made a game of it.

The batsmen were never quite able to get on top, but, thanks to Cunliffe and Alleyne, they did at least set Surrey a respectable target. Cunliffe, who came in at No 3, struck four boundaries in a steady innings of 42 from 78 balls before edging Adam Hollooake's third ball to Stewart. By that stage, Russell had also gone, bowled by Benjamin, and it was left to the captain, Alleyne, to guide Gloucestershire from 87 for five to their final total of 276 for nine.

Alleyne is enjoying something of a renaissance as a player in his first year in the senior role. A prodigious talent when he made his county debut in 1986, there was a danger that he would remain in the "promising" bracket until the day he retired. However, his bowling hustled his team to victory on Friday and he produced a responsible innings of 58 to give them the chance yesterday.

Ealham propels Kent to narrow victory

By Michael Henderson

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent beat Glamorgan by eight runs

TO WIN this game Kent had to play excellent cricket because, until the last five overs, it appeared to lie within Glamorgan's gift. But they glided their loins for one last effort and prevailed by virtue of bowling straight and deploying variations of pace. In other words, they played good cricket to win a very good match. One fact is signal: six Glamorgan batsmen were bowled.

Mark Ealham finished the game by hitting the stumps with successive balls. His last nine balls, bowled in two spells, brought five wickets for only one run. He bowled four batsmen, and had another leg before. Sunday cricket is frequently awful but this, in its own way, was superb stuff. Ealham has few equals in this kind of cricket.

Martin McCague set him up by supplying a wonderful over when Glamorgan required 31 from the last four overs with six wickets in hand. He caught Adrian Dale's return drive, and when Tony Cotton was run out next ball by Trevor Ward from square leg Kent tails were up. Ealham had Shaw leg before in the following over and bowled Wagor next ball. Glamorgan had seen the match pinched from under their noses, although one can only praise Kent for the light-fingered way they went about it.

Robert Croft had given Glamorgan, who were chasing 239, the best possible start. Going in first, he made 50 from 33 balls with six fours and two sixes. He had made 34 before Stephen James got off the mark and it was all too bad for Tim Wren, the left arm medium pacer, who bore the brunt of the punishment.

After Croft swung Paul Strang to long on, where Ealham took it on the gallop, James and Gary Butcher maintained the momentum with some sensible batting. One cannot really fault Glamorgan for pacing their reply indifferently. They needed 60 from the last 10 overs, which should be easy enough when you have six wickets in hand. On this occasion it wasn't.

Apart from his wickets and a good catch Ealham also performed well with the bat, making 61 before he was run out seeking a fourth run. That does not happen very often. They were important runs because Kent had thrown away a rousing start by batting carelessly.

Fleming gave them that start, hooking Watkin for six and driving Wagor for six more over extra cover. He had made 33 from 28 balls when he smashed Watkin over wideish mid-off and Butcher, running the better part of 40 yards from long-off, held an outstanding catch at full tilt. The standard of fielding was not the least impressive aspect of the day's play.

Indian cricket officials have tightened security ahead of next week's key Independence Cup matches after anonymous callers threatened trouble, the organisers said yesterday. Extra police will man the last round of league matches — Sri Lanka v New Zealand at Hyderabad on Tuesday and India v Pakistan at Madras on Wednesday.

Gatting finds final flourish

By Jack Bailey

LORD'S (Derbyshire won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Derbyshire by four wickets

A BUSTLING partnership between Mike Gatting and young David Nash, which realised 62 for the sixth Middlesex wicket, brought them within sight of victory and, with ten required from the last over, Gatting's remarkable innings saw them home. His undefeated 82, from 33 balls, proved decisive as they won with a ball to spare.

The bold striking of Adams apart, Derbyshire's innings was chiefly notable for the time taken by several batsmen to reach the middle. It was baffling. Apart from Blackwell and Cassar, Derbyshire's batsmen had played in the recently completed championship game and there was no real excuse for anyone taking a wrong turning to the depths of the pavilion, as David Steele once did. All this meant that only 39 overs were completed

by the 4.30pm cut-off time. The umpires decided that Middlesex were not to blame, so they set out with a full 40 overs ahead of them. Interestingly, the Derbyshire total of 178 was well short of what the Duckworth-Lewis system would have decreed. The calculations of those mathematical sages, if taken when Derbyshire were 133 for one off 20 overs, would have led to a total requirement by Middlesex of 230.

The home side will have been grateful, then, that it did not rain. Pleased, too, that after Adams's 52 from 73 balls and his partnership of 66 for the first wicket with Jones, and then one of 38 with DeFreitas, only Cassar of the Derbyshire batsmen was able to put together a reasonable score. His 33, from 39 balls, paved the way to Derbyshire's respectable, but surpassable total as Hewitt, Johnson and Dutch whittled them out and Weekes nipped in at the end.

Middlesex's start to their innings was far from reassuring, however. Kalis and Weekes were out with only 27 scored and by the time the halfway stage was reached, they were 38 runs behind Derbyshire's total at the same point. Furthermore, Ramprakash was out soon afterwards and Brown followed to a superb catch by Jones at point. Hereabouts, Gatting was tied down.

With ten overs remaining, Middlesex were well adrift of their target. They still needed 76 and five wickets had gone when Nash joined his captain. Gatting, saw the asking rate reduced to eight an over with four overs remaining. Harris, who had bowled well throughout, conceded only three runs from the next, and 29 from three overs seemed a tall order. Gatting had other ideas.

HOCKEY: BRITISH MEN AND WOMEN MADE TO STRUGGLE ON THE CONTINENT

Hightown's advance halted by Berliner

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN THE HAGUE

HIGHTTOWN'S hopes of qualifying for the final of the European club championship A division here were crushed yesterday in a 3-0 defeat by Berliner.

After Glasgow Western's 4-2 defeat by HGC, the home team, the Scots will meet the Merseysiders today in an all-British play-off for the bronze medal.

The Germans did not impress early on in the tournament, but they responded magnificently to the task yesterday, outplaying and outclassing their opponents for prolonged periods of the game.

Highttown failed to capitalise on several scoring opportunities in the opening exchanges and Berliner soon exerted a stranglehold on the match.

They hit the post twice and Natascha Keller missed a second-half penalty and, although Highttown earned six

penalty corners and Tina Cullen always looked dangerous up front, a composed Berliner defence was seldom threatened.

Melanie Hansler put Berliner 1-0 up after 15 minutes and Keller showed her class with a fine solo goal eight minutes after the restart. Wilke Weiss delivered the decisive blow when she swept in a penalty corner.

In the other section, HGC, the champions on seven occasions, made sure of appearing in another final when they came from a goal down to end the Scots' ambitions of causing an upset.

Jackie Lothian fired Western into a ninth-minute lead from a penalty corner but it was short-lived, the Dutch going into a 3-1 lead after 41 minutes. Sue McDonald reduced the arrears two minutes later, but it only took Ingrid Dineen six more minutes to settle the issue.

Cannock fall short of European promotion

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN CAGLIARI

THE frustration of English clubs in the European men's hockey club championship continued yesterday when Cannock failed to reach the B division final in addition to their 2-2 draw with the hosts, Amisora, means that reaching the new English champions will remain in the lower division for another year.

There will, however, be an Irish presence in the A division next season. Their new champions, Lisnagarvey, are assured of their place among Europe's elite because Istonians earned a place in the B final, where they will meet Amisora.


A place in the final looked beyond the Irish in the final decider against White Star, of Belgium, for, with 15 minutes remaining, they trailed 2-0. Then two penalty-corner strikes by Paddy Brown, 21, a law student, gave them a draw and the point that left them on top of their group, ahead of

White Star on goals scored. Both had identical points and goal difference.

Yet Cannock should have joined Istonians. They enjoyed a 2-0 advantage against Amisora after 57 minutes, when Crutchley converted a penalty, three minutes after he had given them the lead from a penalty corner. Amisora hit back with great tenacity and, although they suffered considerably from a lack of discipline, they eventually got back into the contest. Sarma, one of two players to receive a temporary suspension, cut the deficit from a corner and then, nine minutes from time, Raggo found the target from a similar set-piece. Amisora thus reached the final on goal difference from Cannock.


Cannock could salvage something from the tournament by beating White Star in the match for bronze medal.

Results, page 38



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SAILING

Law steers course to top-three ranking

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

CHRIS LAW'S climb back to the top of world match-racing sailing took another significant step forward at the weekend, when he swept away the challenge of Morten Henriksen of Denmark, to claim the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup for the second time.

Law lost only once in the competition, during the opening round-robin stage. It was a feeling he does not enjoy, as he did not experience again when he defeated Andy Green of Britain in the quarter-finals, Bertrand Pace of France in the semi-finals and Morten Henriksen on Saturday.

The young Danish sailing sailor, who is twelfth in the world match-racing rankings, had joked before the final series that Law would have to live up to his reputation for ruthlessness on the race course. In the event, the Englishman, who is resident in Bermuda for much of the year, put on a more fluent and tactically astute performance to shut out Henriksen.

Racing in light conditions in the lee of Hurst Castle, and after a long delay while the breeze filled in from the south, the two crews enjoyed very close races, with the lead changing hands on both upwind and downwind legs. However, Law's crew of Andy Hemmings, James Sugg and Julian Salter always looked the smoother.

Law won the first race by 7sec and the second by 12sec. In the third, Law dominated the start, sailing Henriksen well away from the line, and then attacked him as he came back in, inflicting a penalty on the Dane, whose crew included Glyn Charles of Britain, on malice. There was then contact between the boats, which resulted in a second penalty for Henriksen that allowed Law to get away eight boat-length clear and the matter was settled.

watched Law all week, he believes he is sailing as well now as at any stage during his long career, which was punctuated by a four-year period when he did not step into a boat. "The difference was that, under pressure, Law was just that little bit smoother and able to manoeuvre round marks with more speed, which translates into better acceleration," Warden-Owen said.

Law, himself, is clearly delighted with the team he constructed around him after losing the final of this event to Russell Coutts, of New Zealand, last year. "This was a really good clean British win against one of the top 20 in the world," he said.

Law's impressive start to the year — he won the Australia Cup in Perth and was then second in a mini-America's Cup regatta in Auckland — has kept him firmly on course for his three goals for the season: to climb into the top three in the world rankings from his present position of sixth; to win the match-racing world championship; and to book himself a skipper's berth in the America's Cup.

If there is to be an America's Cup challenge from the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, which is by no means certain, it is going to be increasingly difficult to exclude Law, who is the most experienced and in-form British match-racer. But the question remains how to accommodate him or whether he would consider joining a team in which he was not the outright skipper or, indeed, whether he remains determined to sail for Britain and the Dorset challenge.

Law apart, the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup, saw further progress from Green, who, at 23, is showing signs of being a real prospect. He sailed with Mark Turner, Mark Healey and David Munge and did well to finish eighth in a strong field.



Law, in the cap, and his crew leave Henriksen in their wake en route to lifting the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup

De Kersauson closes in on record

By Edward Gorman

THE record for the fastest circumnavigation of the world, set by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir Peter Blake on *ENZA* New Zealand in 1994, is under threat as Olivier de Kersauson, of France, completes his voyage on the maxi-tri *Spirit*.

Early yesterday, de Kersauson was still on course to beat *ENZA*'s record and was plotted on Saturday as having the equivalent of a 1,000-mile lead on *ENZA*. De Kersauson still had about 600 miles to sail and was about 630 miles west of the Spanish coast. He should finish some time today. On Friday, he enjoyed an excellent day, putting in a run of 392.6 miles in 24 hours.

This is de Kersauson's sixth attempt to win the Jules Verne Trophy since 1993. If he does break the record, he will make things more difficult for Tracy Edwards and her all-female crew, who are setting off in the revamped *ENZA*, renamed *Royal Sun Alliance*, on their

own attempt to beat the record in January next year. In New York, one of the most spectacular gatherings of super-yachts and classics assembled set off on the Rolex Atlantic Challenge Cup on Saturday. This commemo-

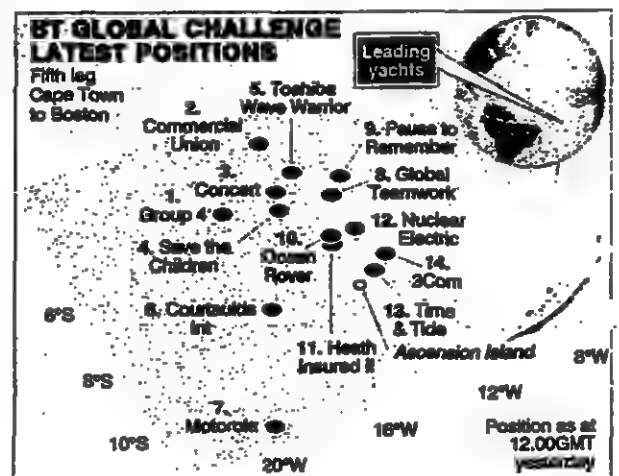
rates the 1905 record-setting crossing by the schooner *Atlantic*, bettered for the first time only last month by *Nicorette*. The fleet, which is racing to The Lizard, off Cornwall, before gathering in Falmouth

and then proceeding to Cowes for a round-the-island race, was led across the line by the 1984-vintage 183ft schooner *Adri*, skippered by Paul Goss.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club's Myth of Malham race, from Cowes to Alderney, turned into one of the longest on record as the 84-strong field drifted in dropping winds. However, more than half the fleet finished the 82-mile course, with most arriving during the early hours of yesterday.

The overall CHS winner was the Class 4 Sigma 33 *Knights Challenge*, skippered by Matthew Gage. The Class 1 winner was the IMX 38 *Simply The Best*, skippered by Paul Waxman. The Army Sailing Association prevailed in Class 2 on the Sigma 38 *Redcoat III*.

In the BT Global Challenge, Group 4, skippered by Mike Golding, continues to lead as the yacht negotiates the south Atlantic on their way from Cape Town to Boston. Group 4 has around 4,000 miles still to sail.



LATEST POSITIONS (as at 12.00GMT yesterday, with miles to Boston): 1. Group 4.085: 2. Commercial Union 4.118; 3. Concorc 4.145; 4. Sea View 4.155; 5. Toshiba Wave Warrior 4.172; 6. Courmado International 4.202; 7. Motorola 4.242; 8. Global Teamwork 4.245; 9. Peace to Remember 4.247; 10. Ocean Race 4.256; 11. Heath Insured 4.257; 12. Nuclear Electric 4.277; 13. Time & Tide 4.330; 14. Scam 4.335

Coventry escape route leads to new horizons

Whistling the theme tune to *The Great Escape* has become a common pursuit in Coventry over the past week, with jokes along the lines of "the *Titanic* would not have gone down if it had been painted sky blue" becoming ever more popular.

No one, though, could have been more relieved at the latest hair-breadth relegation escape by Coventry City than the club's chairman, Bryan Richardson. His grandiose plans to take the FA Carling Premiership club forward would have been severely damaged had Gordon Strachan's team not pulled off the latest survival feat.

Richardson, a former Warwickshire county cricketer, was thwarted in his attempt to buy Coventry rugby union club last year. He felt it would have been a good base for a sporting club along the lines of the one based at Loftus Road, home of Queens Park Rangers and Wasps, or the kind Newcastle United envisaged until it decided it might have an adverse effect on the club's flotation.

Undeterred, Richardson has more ideas. The one gaining currency in Coventry is to move grounds from the ageing Highfield Road to a new all-purpose stadium. For £20 million, Coventry could have a 40,000-seat stadium with a roof that could be closed for other events.

Richardson is attempting to convince the relevant authorities of the idea and, while he does that, another of his plans — floating the club — is simmering away. Richardson has hired Apex Partners, the merchant bank that advised Manchester United, floated Sheffield United and is behind Soccer Investments, the "shell" company that has brought together the talents of Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool captain, Sir Rodney Walker, the chairman of the Sports Council, and Mike Edelson, a director of Manchester United. Apex has told Richardson that floating Coventry would be a better idea when he has a good story to tell. Staying up is not good enough. Building a new stadium is.

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Edelson is also in a curious position. He was behind the Sheffield United deal, when his company, Conrad, brought the Bramall Lane club to market in what the City calls a "reverse takeover". He had to resign from the board because of his Manchester United connection and the same is expected to happen when Soccer Investments finds a club to buy.

Edelson says that they have three clubs in their sights. The criteria is either a Premiership club or one that has Premiership potential. Essentially, the choice is any club short of the top five Premiership clubs or placed in the top half of the Nationwide League first division. Soccer Investments was keen on Sheffield Wednesday before Charterhouse, the City merchant bank, stepped in to provide the club with £16.5 million of funding.

The Premier League, recognising the increasing sophistication of football finance, is relaxing the rules on investing in clubs. This may mean that Edelson can actually stay on the board of whichever club he takes over, but anyone who has been near him when Manchester United are playing would find it hard to see him in any other club's directors box.

JASON NISSE

NEWBURY

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Field, 9.38. 499. J. J. Field, 9.39.

Jennai Cox finds out why Hollywood stars prefer power yoga to the trendy fitness fads of the past decade

Stretch that means life

The surya namaskar exercise involves 18 movements and 18 breaths: hang your head between straight, locked arms with your bottom in the air and try to lay your feet flat. Bend one knee and bring the foot between your arms, rise and balance with arms outstretched in the warrior position.

Go down again and do the same on the opposite side. As I stand red-faced after the three or four minutes this takes to complete, our teacher, Paul Laurensen, tells the class the original yogis would repeat the posture "an auspicious 108 times". He lets us off lightly with five.

Yoga has many purposes and hundreds of variations. First brought to the UK during the reign of Queen Victoria it boomed in the Sixties and Seventies before disappearing along with other hippy trends during the Eighties.

But in the health-conscious Nineties hatha (or physical) yoga is experiencing a renaissance, particularly among men.

Along with women, they are realising not only the physical and mental benefits of this ancient form of exercise, but have also been attracted by a new stronger strain, known as power yoga, which is finding favour among top athletes here and in the US.

Warning to the idea, I attend an ashtanga vinyasa class (one of the more strenuous types) at the City Yoga Centre in east London.

Even though this is a beginner's class I am told that, being pregnant, I must follow modifications of all the movements demonstrated by Lynne Pinette, who taught Jerrina Khan before the birth of her son Sulaiman last November.

Expecting a few gentle stretches and relaxation techniques I find myself unprepared for the demanding levels of physical exertion and concentration required — even in the watered down version.

So that we can get in tune with ourselves there is no music, just burning incense mixed with the smell of bare



feet as we stand on thin mats to avoid slipping. The studio is airy and light with beechwood coloured floorboards and white ropes hanging from the walls. Experts use them for headstands.

Mostly we are in the downward dog position (picture a Labrador stretching) and, unaccustomed to the rigours of continuous bending, I feel the blood rush to my head and

'It involves unlearning all the physical inhibitions we pick up as we grow'

stiff bones clicking every time my hands hit the floor. Yet as the class progresses, muscles begin to loosen and my body adjusts to the suppleness needed for the moves.

After Mr Laurensen has demonstrated each posture, everyone copies in their own time and at their own pace. Ashtanga classes are made up of a series of moves which demand that you breathe only through your nose, concentrate on what your body is doing and learn better balance and control.

We spend most of the time bending and stretching spines, arms and legs, reaching each

position involves almost every muscle in the body.

Hatha yoga actually involves unlearning all the physical inhibitions we pick up as we grow — children are said to love it. All the others in the class — mostly regulars — look relaxed and composed, very well toned and incredibly supple. This discipline is exhausting yet refreshing; my mind is calm, but my body feels awakened for days after.

Yoga, from the Sanskrit word yuj meaning "to unite", leaves me after a one-hour session with "an uncommon sensation of physical and mental togetherness."

In power yoga, as it is becoming more popularly known, the postures (asanas) affect joints, glands, nerves, internal organs and bones, as well as muscles. The positions are not held for as long as in other forms of yoga, making it faster, more dynamic and probably more tiring. Athletes are attracted by its physicality and perseverance for the many other benefits that practising brings.

Frank Bruno recently inquired about one-to-one classes. With Jodie Foster, Warren Beatty and Rob Lowe among its practitioners, power yoga is spurring the revived interest.

Following almost 20 years of stagnation, teachers in Europe estimate participation to be rising by up to 20 per cent a year, especially in Britain, where there are about 250,000 regular students, as well as France, Germany and The Netherlands.

Teachers believe that as a new generation grows tired of the fast and furious fitness fads of the past decade with their short-term benefits, they will turn increasingly to yoga.

"Physical yoga fills a mental and physical gap in people's lives," says Paul Laurensen. "It is the most complete form of exercise. I think its time has come."

By practising from ten to twenty minutes, five times a week, the body is quickly conditioned to overcome its habitual tightness and become flexible. Almost all of those in the class I attend could make their nose touch their knees without bending their legs.

But this is not a precondition to start. There are forms to suit every age, level of fitness and physical ability. Unlike aerobics or running, pregnant women can do it until the day they give birth.

Claims six years ago that, because it was invented by male Indian mystics, yoga is unsuitable for women are unfounded. Mr Laurensen says. Women practised in equal numbers to men when it originated in India 5,000 years ago, but with the rise of patriarchy, they were gradually banished. They now far outnumber male yogis in the West.

The most commonly used forms in Europe and the US focus on the physical, but there are other types, such as Iyengar, which is more static and concentrates on bodily alignment, or sivananda, which uses meditation.

There is also evidence to suggest that when adapted, yoga can help relieve modern ills such as back pain and



Reaching out at the City Yoga Centre, where the studio is airy and light with ropes hanging from the walls that experts use for headstands



Jennai Cox practises the art of yoga and finds the postures affect joints and nerves as well as muscles

GETTING STARTED

■ **TAKING** yoga instruction from an unqualified teacher can be dangerous, so always look for a British Standards Approval (BSA) certificate and make sure your teacher is aware if you are a beginner, pregnant or experience any health problems.

■ **CITY** Yoga Centre offers a range of classes, courses and workshops from beginner to experienced level, including self-practice classes from 6.30 every morning. Mother and baby classes with Lynne Pinette start this month: 0171-253 3000.

■ **YOGA** for Health Foundation, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, runs residential courses from beginner to experienced level, plus specialist courses for people with health problems such as arthritis, MS and ME. The foundation also has a nationwide network of clubs: 01767 627271.

■ **YOGA** Biomedical Trust, Cambridge, conducts research into the medical benefits of yoga and has lists of teachers around the country: 01223 367301.

■ **YOGA** Therapy Centre offers therapeutic forms of yoga to treat ailments such as asthma, back pain and hosts pre and post-natal exercise classes: 0171-833 7267.

■ **THE** British Wheel of Yoga, the governing body, has lists of qualified teachers: 01529 306851.

■ **THE** Iyengar Yoga Institute classes concentrate on posture and alignment: 0171-624 3080.

■ **SIVANANDA** Yoga Centre classes concentrate on meditation: 0181-780 0160.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A passive lead may not give away a trick, but it can certainly provide information about the leader's hand. This is an example from the TGR high game.

Dealer South	Love all	Chicago
♠ 8 5 ♥ 10 7 6 5 ♦ A K 3 2 ♣ Q 8 5	♠ A 6 4 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ Q 4 ♣ J 9 7 8 2	♠ 10 7 3 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ 10 9 8 7 5 ♣ 4 3

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: eight of spades

With engaging modesty the declarer has asked not to be named. All I can say is that he is tall, good-looking, a member of the British bridge team for the upcoming Maccabean Games, and the owner of a bridge club. He opened One No-trump (15-17) and North raised to Three No-trumps. At TGR's they often open marginal 15-17 point hands with One No-trump, as they play that the sequence One Spade — Two of a new suit — Two No-trumps shows a minimum opening bid.

What about the lead? My experience of leading doubletons is that it too often carries up my partner's holding. I think that the choice of lead from the West hand is between the seven of hearts (second best from bad suits) or the ace of diamonds.

Declarer played low from dummy on the spade lead and East put up the ten. Now, what is known about West's

hand? First, he does not have a five-card suit, else he would have led it. Second, he appears to have led from a doubleton spade (the standard lead from 8xx in spades is the middle card).

That means that he has at least three clubs. Furthermore, even a player who likes passive leads would be more likely to lead from three small clubs than from a doubleton spade.

Hence, it is likely that the queen of clubs is offside, and protected. Our hero absorbed all this in a trice, won the first trick with the king of spades and placed the ten of clubs on the Cain and Abel. You could hardly expect a player who leads from doubletons against 1NT — 3NT to snuff that one out. So West played low and Three No-trumps came home.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HALACOR
a. A pungent curry spice
b. A Belgian horn
c. An Unouchable

JETTAGE
a. A ballet movement
b. Harbour dues
c. Stuff thrown overboard

KENSPECKLE
a. A celeb
b. A speckled hen
c. To inspect

INFUNDIBULAR
a. From the beginning
b. Not cultivatable
c. Shaped like a funnel

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams wins

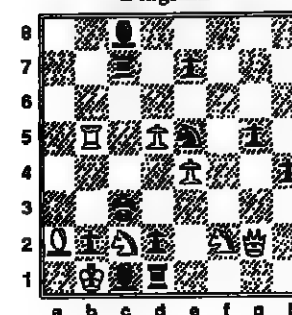
Grandmaster Michael Adams was one of the stalwarts of the England team that won the gold medals in the European team championship at Pula. Adams scored a reliable 5/9 and in so doing inflicted the following defeat on the Hungarian grandmaster Almasi. Adams's weapon in this game was the sharp Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez.

White: Zoltan Almasi
Black: Michael Adams
Pula, May 1997

British chess solving championship. The problem is White to play and mate in two moves against any Black defence. Those wishing to enter should send a cheque or postal order for £3 to cover administrative expenses with their entry which should consist of White's first move only to: British Chess Problem Society, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S19 6ND. Those entering should enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that they can be notified if they have reached the second, postal stage of the championship.

Please mention that you are entering via *The Times* when you send in your answer. The championship is only open to UK residents. The closing date is July 31 1997. Good luck with your solving and I look forward to an excellent entry from *Times* readers, who, over the last few years have entered in considerably greater numbers than from any other national newspapers.

Diagram



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Ruy Lopez

1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bb5	a6
4 Bx4	Nf6
5 O-O	Be7
6 f4	b5
7 Bb3	O-O
8 c5	d5
9 exd5	Nxd5
10 Ne5	Nxe5
11 Rxe5	c6
12 Re1	Bd6
13 d3	Qh4
14 g3	Qh3
15 Re4	Qd7
16 Nc2	Bb7
17 Re1	c5
18 Ne4	Bb7
19 a4	b4
20 Bg5	Bxg5
21 Nfg5	bxc3
22 bxc3	h6
23 Ne4	Oc6
24 Qh5	Ra8
25 a5	h5
26 Nd2	Kf8
27 Nf3	Nf6

White resigns

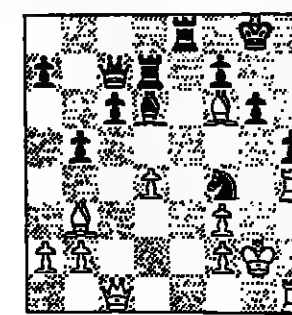
Prize puzzle

The following position is the opening puzzle for the 1997

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Blackburne — Schwartz, Berlin 1881. White has an impressive concentration of force against the black kingside but his first priority is to deal with the check from the knight. What is the best way to do this?



Solution on page 44

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (NFL) Final

Team	W	L	T	P	A
San Francisco	11	5	0	0	0
San Diego	10	6	0	0	0
Seattle	9	7	0	0	0
Denver	8	8	0	0	0
Atlanta	7	9	0	0	0
Washington	6	10	0	0	0
Philadelphia	5	11	0	0	0
Green Bay	4	12	0	0	0
Minnesota	3	13	0	0	0
Indianapolis	2	14	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	1	15	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	16	0	0	0

ATHLETICS

Track and field

CAMBRIDGE: University match: Merit 100m: A Lustigson (Oxford) 11.5sec.	
200m: Lustigson 21.6sec	400m: C. McCaw (Oxford) 49.2sec
800m: T. Rapmore (Cambridge) 1min 53.1sec	1,500m: T. Rapmore 3min 44.4sec
5,000m: D. Leggett (Cambridge) 17min 30.00m	10,000m: D. Leggett 35min 14.5m
15,000m: D. Leggett 52min 58.9sec	20,000m: D. Leggett 1hr 14min 58.9sec
30,000m: D. Leggett 2hr 14min 58.9sec	40,000m: D. Leggett 3hr 14min 58.9sec
50,000m: D. Leggett 4hr 14min 58.9sec	60,000m: D. Leggett 5hr 14min 58.9sec
70,000m: D. Leggett 6hr 14min 58.9sec	90,000m: D. Leggett 7hr 14min 58.9sec
110m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 11.5sec	220m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 23.5sec
440m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 47.5sec	880m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 95.5sec
1,760m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 4min 55.5sec	3,520m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 9min 55.5sec
7,040m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 19min 55.5sec	14,080m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 39min 55.5sec
28,160m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 79min 55.5sec	56,320m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 159min 55.5sec
112,640m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 319min 55.5sec	225,280m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 639min 55.5sec
450,560m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1279min 55.5sec	901,120m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2559min 55.5sec
1,802,240m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 5119min 55.5sec	3,604,480m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 10239min 55.5sec
7,208,960m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20479min 55.5sec	14,417,920m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 40959min 55.5sec
28,835,840m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 81919min 55.5sec	57,671,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 163839min 55.5sec
115,343,360m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 327679min 55.5sec	230,686,720m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 655359min 55.5sec
461,373,440m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310719min 55.5sec	922,746,880m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3221439min 55.5sec
1,845,493,760m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 6442879min 55.5sec	3,690,987,520m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 12885759min 55.5sec
7,381,975,040m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 25771519min 55.5sec	14,763,950,080m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51543039min 55.5sec
29,527,900,160m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103086079min 55.5sec	59,055,800,320m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 206172159min 55.5sec
118,071,600,640m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 412344319min 55.5sec	236,143,201,280m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 824688639min 55.5sec
472,286,402,560m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1649377279min 55.5sec	944,572,805,120m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,889,145,610,240m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 8197911039min 55.5sec	3,778,291,220,480m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec
7,516,582,440,960m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41589610159min 55.5sec	15,033,164,881,920m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec
30,066,669,763,840m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	60,266,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 206172159min 55.5sec
120,266,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 824688639min 55.5sec	240,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
480,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec	960,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec
1,920,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 5242860479min 55.5sec	3,840,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 10485720959min 55.5sec
7,680,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec	15,360,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
30,720,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	61,440,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
122,880,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec	245,760,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
491,520,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec	983,040,666,679,055,680m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec
3,968,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 10485720959min 55.5sec	15,808,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
7,936,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec	31,672,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec
63,744,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	127,488,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec
254,976,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 206172159min 55.5sec	509,952,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 412344319min 55.5sec
1,019,904,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 824688639min 55.5sec	2,039,808,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec
4,079,616,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec	8,159,232,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec
16,318,464,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec	32,636,928,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec
65,273,792,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	130,547,584,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec
261,095,168,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	522,190,336,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,044,380,672,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,088,761,344,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,177,522,688,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	8,355,045,376,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
16,710,090,752,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	33,420,181,504,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
66,840,363,008,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	133,680,726,016,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
267,361,452,032,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	534,722,904,064,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,069,445,808,128,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,138,891,616,256,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,277,783,232,512,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	8,555,566,465,024,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
17,111,132,930,048,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	34,222,265,860,096,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
68,444,531,720,192,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	136,889,063,440,384,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
273,778,126,880,768,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	547,556,253,761,536,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,095,112,507,523,072,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,190,225,015,046,144,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,380,450,030,086,144,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	8,760,900,060,172,288,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
17,521,800,120,344,576,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	35,043,600,240,688,112,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
70,087,200,480,688,224,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	140,174,400,961,376,448,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
280,348,801,922,752,896,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	560,697,603,845,505,792,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,121,395,207,689,011,584,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,242,790,415,378,023,168,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,485,180,831,556,046,336,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	8,970,361,663,112,092,672,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
17,940,723,326,224,185,344,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	35,881,446,652,448,371,680,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
71,762,893,304,896,740,688,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	143,525,786,609,793,481,376,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
287,051,573,219,587,482,752,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	574,103,146,439,174,964,736,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,148,206,286,479,154,969,504,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,296,412,572,958,309,939,008,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,592,825,145,916,619,938,016,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	9,185,650,291,833,239,876,032,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
18,371,300,583,666,479,872,064,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	36,742,601,167,332,959,752,128,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
73,485,202,334,665,919,744,256,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	146,970,404,669,331,839,488,512,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
291,940,809,338,663,679,168,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	583,881,618,677,327,358,336,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,167,763,277,355,262,716,736,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,335,526,554,710,525,433,472,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,671,053,109,400,525,466,880,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	9,342,106,218,801,050,933,760,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
18,684,212,437,601,050,933,760,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	37,368,424,875,202,101,867,520,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
74,736,849,750,404,203,734,720,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	148,947,399,001,608,414,938,880,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
295,147,399,001,608,414,938,880,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	590,294,798,003,216,829,877,760,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,180,581,996,006,433,658,755,520,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,361,163,992,012,867,317,511,040,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,722,327,984,025,667,271,222,016,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	9,444,655,968,051,334,542,444,032,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
18,969,311,936,102,668,969,776,064,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	37,938,623,872,205,337,939,552,128,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
75,877,247,744,410,675,879,808,256,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	151,754,495,488,821,351,759,616,512,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
303,508,990,977,642,687,519,632,1024,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	607,017,981,955,285,375,039,264,2048,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,214,035,963,910,138,510,156,812,800,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,428,071,927,820,277,040,313,625,600,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,856,143,855,640,277,040,313,625,600,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	9,712,287,711,280,554,080,627,251,200,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
19,424,574,845,120,110,720,251,200,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	38,849,149,690,240,221,440,502,400,192,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
77,697,598,760,480,445,680,201,900,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	155,395,197,520,960,891,360,403,801,984,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
310,780,790,081,920,364,720,323,603,984,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	621,561,580,163,840,729,440,647,207,968,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,243,046,720,327,680,291,776,258,816,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,486,093,440,671,680,583,516,635,232,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
4,972,188,801,110,720,231,712,512,460,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	9,944,377,602,221,440,463,424,924,920,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
19,888,755,204,442,880,185,289,696,170,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	39,777,510,408,885,760,150,579,368,341,984,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 20971441919min 55.5sec
79,511,001,617,771,360,602,318,720,136,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 41942883959min 55.5sec	159,022,003,235,542,721,204,637,472,272,192,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 83111503959min 55.5sec
316,048,012,943,068,721,204,637,472,272,192,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 16395822079min 55.5sec	632,096,025,886,137,442,409,274,944,544,192,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 3298955519min 55.5sec
1,264,192,051,772,137,442,409,274,944,544,192,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 65543039min 55.5sec	2,528,384,103,544,274,884,818,548,889,088,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 1310715119min 55.5sec
5,056,768,207,088,548,735,677,139,776,177,984,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 2621430239min 55.5sec	10,113,536,414,177,095,471,355,479,354,352,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 51942883959min 55.5sec
20,227,073,668,353,818,188,548,735,677,139,776,177,984,992,000,000,000,000m: A. Lustigson (Oxford) 103885767919min 55.5sec	40,454,147,336,707,636,377,071,4

Regulation not activity of economic nature

Directive cannot protect future pension rights

Institute of Chartered Accountants v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Roger Parker

[Judgment May 15]

The Institute of Chartered Accountants was not entitled to a refund of value-added tax on the charges it made for granting licences and certificates to practitioners in accountancy who carried on investment business, practised as auditors or as insolvency practitioners.

Those were not activities of an economic nature. The fact that the institute generated revenue from the issue of licences, certificates or maintenance of the register in order to cover overheads did not itself mean that it was carrying on economic activity, as doing so the institute was performing public services to which any idea of commercial exploitation with a view to profit was alien.

Further, those functions were typical of the activity of a public authority. Although connected with the activity of the profession of accountancy, the activity of the institute did not consist in the supply of such services for a consideration but in ensuring that those in the profession who did provide such services did so in accordance with the law.

The Court of Appeal held in dismissing an appeal by the institute from the dismissal by Mr Justice Tuckey on February 13, 1996, of an appeal from the VAT Tribunal, which had upheld a ruling of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise on March 25, 1994, that the institute could not charge VAT for the services. Leave to appeal was granted.

Section 4 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 provides: "It shall be charged on any supply of goods or services made within the territory of the United Kingdom where it is a taxable supply made by a taxable person in the course or furtherance of any business carried on by him."

(2) A taxable supply is a supply of goods or services made other than an exempt supply.

Section 5 provides: "(2) (a) 'supply' in this Act includes all forms of supply, but not anything done otherwise than for a consid-

eration; (b) anything which is not a supply of goods but is done for a consideration... is a supply of services."

Section 94 provides: "(1) In this Act 'business' includes any trade, profession or vocation. (2) Without prejudice to the generality of anything done in the Act, the following are deemed to be the carrying on of a business: (a) The provision by a club, association or organisation (for a subscription or other consideration) of the facilities or advantages available to its members."

Article 13 made provisions for exemptions. Exemption (1)(f) was "supply of services and goods closely linked thereto for the benefit of their members in return for a subscription, fee or other consideration with their roles by non-profit making organisations with aims of a political, trade union, religious, charitable, philosophical, philanthropic or other nature, provided that such exemption is not likely to cause distortion of competition."

Article 6 provided: "1. 'Supply of services' shall mean any transaction which does not constitute a supply of goods within the meaning of article 5. Such transactions may include inter alia... the performance of services in pursuance of an order made by or in the name of a public authority or in pursuance of the law."

In *Commission v The Netherlands* Mr Advocate-General Lena had examined the meaning of "economic activities" in article 4(2) of the Sixth Directive. He pointed out that the provision did not require the exercise of a profit making activity or one subject to market forces, but only a permanent activity pursued for consideration.

After drawing attention to the fact that "economic activities" was intended to be given an extensive definition, he said at paragraph 22: "It is not therefore necessary for services to be primarily or exclusively oriented towards the market or economic life in order to come within the scope of VAT; it is sufficient that they are actually connected with economic life in some way or another."

The essence of the court's decision was in paragraph 9 which read: "In view of the wide definition of the term 'economic activities', encompassing all the activities of the professions without any reservation in respect of professions regulated by statute, it must be concluded that in so far as notaries and bailiffs in The Netherlands provide services to persons in the exercise of their professional basis and in return for remuneration they carry out an economic activity within the meaning of the Sixth Directive."

That reasoning suggested that the definition of "economic activity" did not require consideration of the nature of the activity although its purpose and the mere fact that it was regulated by statute were irrelevant.

The same reasoning was applied in the case of the Spanish tax authorities. *Asistencia de Sanidad v Recaudadores de las Zonas Primarias y Segunda* (Case C-202/90) [1993] STC 659.

Neither of those decisions ascertained as to the date of the making of the administrative order, but in a voluntary liquidation at the date of the resolution to wind up.

There was a substantial body of preferential creditors if their status was determined as at the date of the administration orders, but at the date of any resolutions for winding up there would be none.

Accordingly those creditors who would be preferential if there were a compulsory liquidation would only agree to a voluntary liquidation if their status as preferential creditors could be preserved.

The administrators sought to "prioritise" the creditors' position. Agreement was reached to place the companies into voluntary liquidation.

The administrators applied for orders on the discharge of the administration orders supported by most non-preferential creditors and the proposed liquidators.

The Inland Revenue raised questions as to the court's jurisdiction to make an order that the creditors who would be preferential creditors in the case of a compulsory liquidation would enjoy the same status in the voluntary liquidation.

In a compulsory liquidation, the preferential creditors were to be ascertained as at the date of the making of the administrative order, but in a voluntary liquidation at the date of the resolution to wind up.

Where a lord justice gave leave to appeal on specified grounds only, indicating that he was not giving leave in relation to the other grounds, it was still open to an appellant to seek to rely on those grounds in relation to which leave had not been given if, and only if, he got the leave of the court to rely on those grounds.

The appropriate practice to follow in such a situation was for the appellant to give notice to the respondent that he intended to rely on grounds which had not received leave to rely on those additional grounds at the hearing of the appeal.

On being notified of that, the court could, in its preparation of the case, determine whether or not it was an appropriate case to give that leave either at the hearing of the appeal or prior to the appeal if the court considered that it would be helpful to do so.

Lord Justice Ward agreed. Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwaite; Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham.

THE MASTER OF THE ROULES, agreed with Lord Justice Mummery that the application should be dismissed, said that that was a convenient opportunity to give some assistance as to general practice.

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"5. States, regional and local government authorities and other bodies governed by public law shall not be considered taxable persons in respect of the activities or transactions in which they engage, publications, even when they collect dues, fees, contributions or payments in connection with these activities or transactions..."

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done by applying the words necessary to achieve that result.

Applying that approach it seemed plain that the words of the 1994 Act were intended to encompass the activities referred to in the Sixth Directive and that the court had to approach the interpretation of that Act in accordance with the purposes of the directive and decisions of the European Court bearing on the meaning of economic activity.

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seemed to be definitive in deciding whether a particular activity was in fact an economic activity. Rather, the suggestion was that activities carried on in a particular way where services were provided for reward were not exempt merely because if carried out by regional or local government authorities or other bodies governed by public law they would not be considered as taxable persons; or, more succinctly, that an activity carried on by a private individual was not excluded from the scope of VAT merely because it consisted in the performance of acts falling within the perspective of the public authority.

After considering *Wellcome Trust Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners* (Case C-453/94) [1996] STC 945 and *SAT Niggefahrungs mbH v European Commission for the Safety of Air Navigation* (Case C-364/93) [1994] ECR I-433 his Lordship said that from all the cases he concluded that the concept of "an economic activity" was an activity which typically was performed for a consideration and was connected with economic life in some way or another.

But it was not an essential characteristic that it should be carried on with a view to profit or for commercial reasons but it had to be an activity which was analogous to activities so carried on.

Applying those criteria to the activities of the institute he found that they were not activities of an economic nature. They were activities which Parliament had decreed should be carried out for the protection of the public and were to be regarded as the exercise of public control over those who engaged in financial services, auditing and insolvency practice.

While acknowledging the force of the submissions made on the institute's behalf, his Lordship did not feel any real doubt about the conclusion that the institute's activities were not economic activities within article 4 or the Sixth Directive and would not refer the question to the European Court of Justice.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Roger Parker agreed.

Solicitors: Denton Hall, Milton Keynes; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

sets part passu among the creditors in accordance with the statutory scheme were preferred creditors in the liquidation. Neither sections 143 nor 183 conferred the necessary statutory authority to override the statutory scheme.

Section 140(1) and paragraph 13 of Schedule 1 to the Act gave the administrators powers wide enough to permit a distribution to creditors who would be preferential creditors if the companies had gone into liquidation on the date when the administration orders were made; but the power was only exercisable to advance the purposes for which the administration orders were made: see *Re WSBH Reaffirmations* [1992] 1 WLR 1183.

The insuperable problem in the instant case was that the purpose of the proposed payment was not the more advantageous realisation of the companies' assets but a more advantageous method of distribution of assets. Section 140(1) and paragraph 13 of Schedule 1 were inapplicable. There was no jurisdiction to make the order sought.

Solicitors: Wragge & Co, Birmingham; Hammond Suddards, Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

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Adams and Others v Lancashire County Council and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment May 15]

The Acquired Rights Directive on the transfer of an undertaking or business to another employer (Council Directive 77/187/EEC) (OJ 1977 No L46/26) required member states to afford protection to pension rights arising after the date of transfer.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the plaintiffs, Barbara Adams and son other dinner ladies, from Mr Justice Robert Walker (The Times January 25, 1996; [1996] ECR 935) when he dismissed their originating summons against the defendant Lancashire County Council and BET Catering Services Ltd, which tendered successfully to take over their work.

Article 3 of the Directive provided that the transferee's rights and obligations arising from a contract of employment... existing on the date of a transfer within the meaning of article 1(1) shall, by reason of such transfer, be transferred to the transferee.

(2) Following the transfer... the transferee shall continue to observe the terms and conditions agreed in any collective agreement on the same terms applicable to the transferee under that agreement.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not cover employees' rights to old age, invalidity or survivors' benefits under supplementary pension schemes... in member states.

Member states shall adopt the measures necessary to protect the interests of employees and of persons no longer employed in the transferee's business at the time of the transfer... in respect of rights conferred on them immediate or prospective entitlement to old age benefits, including survivors' benefits, under supplementary pension schemes referred to in the first subparagraph.

Mr Brian Langstaff, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield for the plaintiffs; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Jason Coppell for Lancashire; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Peter Cranfield for BET.

THE MASTER OF THE ROULES, agreed with Lord Justice Mummery that the application should be dismissed, said that that was a convenient opportunity to give some assistance as to general practice.

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The Good University Guide

Decade of growth has made it harder to choose

Britain's universities stand at a crossroads in their history. After two decades of almost constant flux, fundamental decisions affecting the life of every student have to be faced.

The higher education system is already virtually unrecognisable from the one in place at the beginning of the decade: there are almost twice as many universities and 50 per cent more students. At the start of a new Parliament, with a government review of higher education taking place and the prospect of "free" tuition disappearing in at least some universities, there are few certainties left.

Those hoping to enter university in 1998 will need to take more care than ever over their choices. Applications are running well ahead of last year, and competition for popular courses is bound to be stiff. For the next five days, *The Times* provides a starting point in the increasingly complex search for the right course. No guide can cater for individual tastes, but a wealth of information is available to narrow down the possibilities. *The Good University Guide* distils some of this information into a more manageable form and offers advice on the applications process.

At first sight, choosing a university appears to have become simpler as the decade has worn on. The distinction between universities and polytechnics was swept away in 1992 and the number of places

expanded to the point where far more young (and not so young) people could benefit from higher education. Virtually everyone with two A levels, and a great many without, can now get onto a degree course somewhere.

Almost a third of 18-year-olds now go on to higher education, compared with one in seven in 1980, and at least twice that proportion will take a course at some point in their life. Yet, by ridding Britain of its "elite" university system, the very process of opening up higher education ensured the creation of a new hierarchy of institutions. The myth that all degrees were equal could not survive in a nation of 100 diverse universities and a growing number of degree-providing colleges.

Prospective employers want to know not only what a graduate studied, but also where. Those committing their money to student sponsorship or funding research are comparing institutions department by department. This has become possible because of a new transparency in what a former higher education minister described as the "secret garden of academe". Official demands for more and more published information have taxed the patience of university administrators but given outsiders the opportunity to make more meaningful comparisons.

Many see the beginnings of a British Ivy League in the competitive culture that has ensued. Even

before the recent upheavals, the lion's share of research cash went to fewer than 20 traditional universities, enabling them to upgrade their facilities and attract many of the top academics. As student numbers have gone through the roof, however, general higher education budgets have been squeezed and the funding gap has widened.

Beneath the veneer of a unified higher education system, three types of university are emerging: the research-based elite, a large group dedicated primarily to teaching, and an indeterminate number of mixed-economy institutions in the middle struggling to maintain a research base. Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education will report in July, with legislation to follow in the autumn, but it is hard to imagine that pattern changing in the foreseeable future.

There is no need for formalised divisions because the market is already taking the university system in the direction that both main political parties would probably favour. The politicians have enough on their hands dealing with what should pay for the renewed expansion of higher education that both the universities and the business community want.

The answer is not in doubt: students may postpone the evil moment until well after graduation, and some may persuade their families or future employers to share the financial burden, but they will soon be paying for higher



Smiling through: financial pressures on students are increasing but gaining a degree still remains an advantage when seeking a job

education. The days of the maintenance grant covering all a student's living costs are long gone in any case, as rising levels of student debt have demonstrated. But the knowledge that any financial support from the State is going to have to be repaid is bound to concentrate applicants' minds further.

Baroness Blackstone, the new Higher Education Minister, has not ruled out charging for tuition, although, like its predecessor, the Government has set its face against individual universities levying "top-up" fees. Nevertheless, some

may feel they have no option unless their state support is increased.

At the very least, applicants for places in 1998 should demand to know whether their chosen universities have ruled out tuition fees and, if so, whether they would be exempt from any future charges. If there are to be fees, those from low-income families will want to know what bursaries are available.

Doubtless some will be tempted, once the attractions of university life have been balanced against the costs and loss of potential earnings, to write off higher education.

Simon Gold (below) and his friends are living proof.

There are plenty of self-made millionaires to testify that the University of Life is the only training ground a person needs for success. And, with so many graduates competing for jobs, a degree will never again be an automatic passport to a fast-track career. But graduates' career prospects remain far superior to school leavers'.

Even for those who cannot afford three or more years of full-time education after leaving school, university remains a possibility.

The modular courses offered by most universities enable students to study at their own pace. Distance learning is another option.

This week's series and the book which accompanies it will provide pointers for applicants to pursue. Tomorrow and Wednesday will feature rankings for more than 20 subjects and offer advice on sources of information in other areas; Thursday will focus on Oxbridge and Friday sees the overall table of British universities.

JOHN O'LEARY



Simon Gold: "My mother can't afford to send me to university, so I would have to borrow money"

Is a degree worth the effort?

As a sixth-former, I have an important choice to make next year. I go to a fairly good school, where I am doing A levels. But many intelligent people in my school are having doubts about going to university. Students aren't sure any more if there is any point.

"Degrees aren't what they used to be," lamented my politics teacher, preparing us for our exams. "You are no longer guaranteed a job with a degree. Nowadays an MA will get you to where a degree would have got you several years ago."

This is the situation that led a girl in my year to tell me that she probably wasn't going to go to university. She is a perfectly intelligent girl who would probably make a very valuable contribution to society in later life, but she is not convinced that higher

education is worth the burden of debt she would face.

This is the position my cousin finds herself in, receiving £4 an hour after spending three years studying for a degree. A local employment agency said it could offer me twice that amount without her qualifications.

Many people who have got to exactly where they want to be in society believe that if you work hard enough, you can be anything you want to be. I think I know where I would like to be when I'm older: in a courtroom would be my dream.

The problem is that I don't know on which side of the law I would be. I might be in a courtroom trying to fight off bailiffs and bankruptcy if I go on

to university and don't get a good job afterwards.

My parents are divorced and my mother can't afford to put me through university, so I would have to borrow money for my law degree. The problem is that if I don't find a decent job afterwards, how will I pay off my debts?

I could take a gamble and hope for the best, but it would be easier to try to find a job straight after A levels. I'm just wondering when someone will bother to address this issue for me and the thousands of students out there with the same problem.

Education has to become valued again in our society. Near-irreparable damage has been done to the quality of education.

the brunt of which is borne by the student. Government needs to make a U-turn on education. More grants need to be provided for people who cannot afford to go to university otherwise.

At the same time, instead of making the whole thing easier, dramatic changes need to be made to make exams and syllabuses harder, and colleges. Qualifications do not mean what they used to. For example, GCSEs mean everything if you haven't got them, and nothing if you have. Students are unhappy with the way they have to push themselves through the system to arrive at the top with little more than they started with. Let's see if new Labour brings a fresh approach to education in Britain.

SIMON GOLD

Electronic application forms are a bonus for students, says David Charter

A trivial mistake in your university application form can cause unnecessary delays in processing, but such problems could be a thing of the past thanks to the Internet.

From the autumn, students seeking a higher education course in 1998 will be able to fill in their application forms on screen with the aid of a prompt to guide them through each section, then send them off via the Internet or on disk.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), which has run trials of its screen-based application form in schools for several years, believes there are advantages for students.

Anthony McClaran, deputy chief executive of Ucas, says: "We are finding far fewer mistakes when forms are done online in this way."

"It saves trivial errors. For example, a lot of students fill in the day's date as their birthday, but on the electronic form you are prompted to put in another date when there is one that is clearly impossible."

Every school or college will be able to enter its candidates electronically next term, although the traditional form will still be acceptable.

Users of *The Good University Guide* applying for courses starting in 1998 have at least another five months to consider their options before the first deadline of October 15 for Oxford and Cambridge candidates; the general deadline for all other universities is December 15.

Art and design students have two options, Routes A and B, a legacy of last year's link-up of the Art and Design Admissions Registry (Adar) with Ucas. Route A is the same as for all other students, and Route B, the former Adar method, is a sequential process with a January deadline, where application forms pass from one institution to the

Safety Net will screen out the silly errors



Candidates can apply to six universities on their Ucas form

next. The first step for prospective students is to send for the Ucas handbook. Copies are sent to all secondary schools, colleges and public libraries, and are available from Ucas, PO Box 28, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3SA.

Candidates can apply to six universities on their Ucas form, which are not listed in order of preference. They will be allowed to keep a maximum of two offers by the beginning of May, one firm offer and one insurance place.

From this November, universities will start making

conditional offers based on A-level points or vocational qualifications to those still to sit their examinations. Other applicants will either be made firm offers of a place on the basis of existing qualifications or be rejected and left with clearing.

Candidates who miss the December 15 deadline can still submit an application to Ucas but universities are not obliged to give them equal consideration.

The official lists of university course vacancies for this autumn will be published on

A-level results day for the first time — a recognition that the scramble for places begins as soon as grades are known.

Technically, the clearing process will not start until the following week, when candidates begin receiving their clearing forms from Ucas. A place can be agreed verbally but will not be officially confirmed until the form changes hands.

Clearing, the post-results matching of students and places, has been happening faster and earlier every year and this year will be no exception, with many of the popular courses filled up within seven days.

Universities are penalised if they take on too many students because of the Government's "freeze" on higher education places, so when they say a course is full, there is no room to manoeuvre.

Students would do well to heed the perennial advice from Ucas and make sure they are not away on holiday in the week starting August 14, A-level results day.

Jess Enderby, assistant chief executive of Ucas said: "Universities have said that students contact them on the Thursday anyway, so we decided they may as well have the listings there to refer to."

He said Ucas would this year require a final decision on confirmed offers by August 20 and on insurance offers by August 22.

"The idea is that universities ought to be able to take quicker decisions on confirmed offers. Hopefully it will speed up the process, allow faster decisions and get those heading for clearing there a little quicker," he said.

In a move which started last year, clearing forms will be sent out in mid-July to applicants who hold no offers of places. Up to 150,000 students are expected to try for 40,000 places in clearing this year.

Poachers play a dangerous game

About 418,000 applications were made to higher education last year through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), a slight dip on the year before, but evidence enough to show that the demand for higher education remains buoyant.

Ucas has coped admirably with the massive rise in applications in recent years, but is now experiencing problems. The most serious, as Professor Berrick Saul, its chairman, has recently admitted, is "the practice of institutions bypassing Ucas altogether in admitting students and poaching students".

This is one of several cracks that have appeared in the central admissions procedure. I believe these cracks may undermine the whole structure. The world of entry to higher education have changed beyond recognition since the Universities Central Council on Admissions, as it used to be called, was founded in 1961. Because there were only 25 universities compared with 115 now, it was little more than a cottage industry.

Applications, confined as they were to a small elite of overwhelmingly middle-class 18-year-olds, were made and processed without the pressures that greater access to higher education has generated recently.

Those days are gone. Not only has there been an enormous increase in the numbers applying, but equally importantly there has been a change in attitude and behaviour of the two constituencies Ucas has served — the applicants and the universities. The in-

creased challenge for applicants to acquire a place on their favoured course, and the universities to meet the targets set by the Higher Education Funding Council, have resulted in both groups breaking the gentlemen's rules on which the effective working of the system has depended.

One of these rules is that all applications received before December 15 must receive equal treatment by the universities.

We in schools know that this has not been the case for some time, and that those who submit their applications, especially for popular courses, early in the season, are likely to receive a quicker and more favourable response.

However, the point at which the rules are most clearly flouted, and where the system appears to be in greatest danger of collapse, is when the exam results are published in August and the desperate scramble for places ensues.

I would predict that a group of universities, recognising Ucas is either not working or not serving them well, or both, will declare their independence and set up their own admissions systems.

Careers advisers might not look forward to the time when students come to us with five separate university application forms, asking for a reference for each. But this situation already exists in the US. Here is a disturbing glimpse of how the British applications system may look in the year 2005.

GRAHAM LACEY
The author is Head of Sixth Form at Seneca School, Kent.

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The Good University Guide

Work experience is a lift-off to the future

David Charter looks at the results of a survey that reveals graduates' prospects for finding jobs

Unemployment rates of recent graduates vary widely depending on the subject they studied, despite a growing belief that course choice is a declining factor in employers' requirements. It will come as little surprise that vocational first degrees have the lowest unemployment levels, although the figures also show graduates in "shortage" academic areas reap early rewards in the jobs market.

Of the major university subjects, law graduates are least likely to find themselves unemployed, followed by education students. But just 7.5 per cent of modern language students and 7.7 per cent of chemists were out of work six months after graduation, according to figures compiled for the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services.

In contrast, 12.5 per cent of art and design graduates and 11.7 per cent of sociology or social studies students were still unemployed. The table of unemployment rates should be read with caution because graduates in some subjects, such as law, would expect to go on to further study to qualify as lawyers or barristers.

The highest rates of full-time employment recorded by the December after graduating came in education, at 86.3 per cent, then computing, at 77.5 per cent, followed by business and management graduates, 74.7 per cent, and electrical engineering students, 69.3 per cent.

Overall, more than 60 per cent of 1995 graduates were in full-time employment by the December after they left university. Around a fifth of these were on short-term contracts and one in 40 was self-employed.

About 10 per cent had by then started a higher degree and a further 10 per cent were in some other form of study or training. A total of 9.2 per cent were listed as unemployed. Figures in the table do not add up to 100 per cent because some graduates were in part-time work while seeking a permanent post or further training.

Bob Ward, statistical information manager at the Higher Education Careers Service Unit (CSU), said: "We are keen to stress that these figures are a snapshot, based on a survey six months after graduation, and give an idea of first steps along the career path."

"In terms of employability, the most important message seems to be to gain work experience while you are at college and show you are developing skills beyond the requirements of your course. This is as important to employers as your course content."

In a separate survey, Barclays found the highest-paid graduates from 1996 studied computer science. Six months after graduating, they were earning an average of £15,175.

The Barclays survey of 1,300 graduates found the next highest paid were in law, on £14,626, then mathematics, £13,352. The aver-

age salary of those in employment by December after graduating was £12,697.

Those earning below the average included graduates in the creative arts (£11,739), social, economic and political studies (£11,440) and from biological sciences (£10,359).

Graduates are still far less likely to be unemployed than non-graduates. The latest unemployment rate for graduates of all ages is 4.2 per cent compared with 8.1 per cent for the population as a whole. Mr Ward said this had been linked to three traits of "graduateness": flexibility, the ability to innovate, and core skills such as communication and team-working. He added: "The model that is being built up is that, during the course of their career, graduates will move from employer to employer gaining different skills."

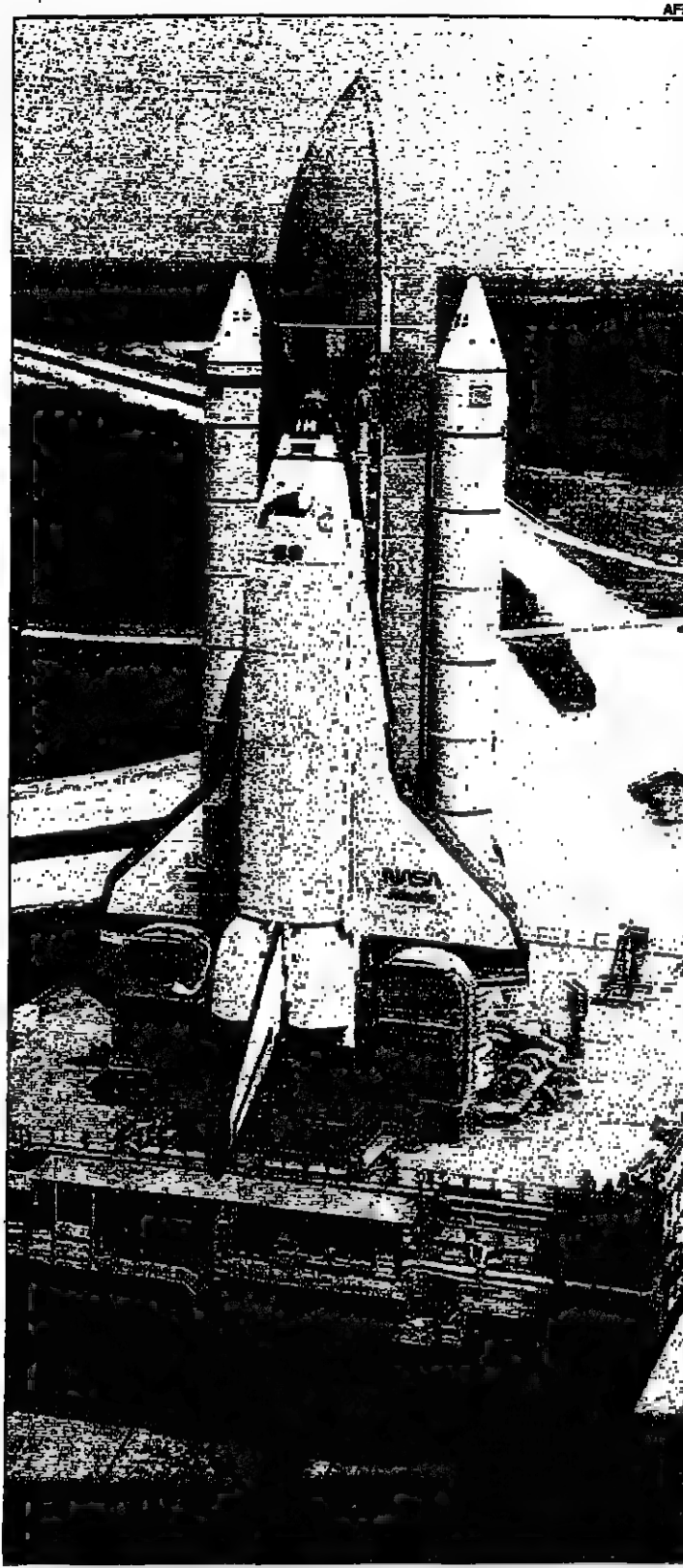
There is a perceived demand for good-quality graduates in computing and IT, so new graduates in those subjects are more likely to find a job. But in terms of other subjects, there is a growing concept of lifelong learning, that you will never entirely leave the education system, and that, formally or informally, you will be topping up your skills."

Roly Cookman, chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters said: "My advice to any young person would be that if they aspire to go into a career that demands a specific vocational degree, such as veterinary science, medicine or engineering, then by all means do a degree based on that. But if you are not, then read a subject at university that you are interested in rather than something which you think will give you a better ticket for a job at the end of it."

What Do Graduates Do? price £5.95, published by CSU, 4th floor, Armstrong House, Oxford Road, Manchester M1 7ED.

Subject	Job	Study	DoE
Art and design	58.2	18.4	12.5
Sociology/Soc studies	61.8	18.7	11.7
Biological sciences	47.9	34.7	10.4
Business/management	74.4	7.9	10.4
English	46.7	32.5	10.2
Electrical engineering	69.3	17.0	10.3
Computing	77.5	8.2	10.4
History	52.6	30.7	9.8
Physics	45.1	43.0	9.8
Mathematics	53.4	33.7	8.3
Geography	58.7	25.5	8.1
Chemistry	43.2	44.6	7.7
Modern languages	61.9	24.1	7.5
Education	86.3	3.5	8.8
Law	24.5	65.7	5.2

Source: AGCAS



The space shuttle Atlantis: students were keen to work for Nasa

CAREER PLANNING

Students cannot start their career planning too early. That is the obvious conclusion to be drawn from research sponsored by The Times and published today.

Even at the 24 leading universities covered by the High Fliers survey, undergraduates drift into their final year without investigating the jobs market or even visiting their careers service. Many start their search only after the big companies have made their fast-track appointments.

Martin Birchall, who directed the survey, says: "Students don't seem to realise that they are missing out on the best jobs by leaving things so late. It may be tempting to concentrate on your degree and pick up a job later, but often that means narrowing your horizons."

Mr Birchall adds: "Companies' wish-lists of the qualities they would like to see in graduates include academic success and positions of responsibility, but they also look for work experience and a sense of direction. That means thinking long-term right from the start of a degree course."

On average, about half the students surveyed had seen a careers adviser by the end of their second year, but few followed up with approaches to employers. Only half made applications even during the main recruitment season.

Engineering attracted the most applicants this year, overtaking accountancy, last year's favourite career in the table. Only marketing came close to these two fields of employment, although general management and management consultancy were both popular.

There were significant differences between universities, however. At Aston, marketing had the largest number of applicants, and at Edinburgh, Sheffield and UMIST. At Bristol and Glasgow, law was the most popular, while at Cardiff it was teaching.

Use of the careers service varied widely, too. Although it was highly rated by those who used it, only 60 per cent had done so at Strathclyde University, compared with 88 per cent at Durham.

The survey suggests that students are realistic, if not pessimistic, about their likely destinations. For example, although the BBC was by far the most popular choice as the organisation students would like to work for, the corporation barely scraped into the top 30 employers thought to be offering graduates the best opportunities.

While self-employment and the Civil Service held attractions for many in the survey, others were content to dream: Nasa won a place in the top ten ideal destinations, even though few were likely to apply for a job there. With the United Nations, the European Commission and

GRADUATES WITH JOB EXPECTATIONS

University	% expecting to start work
Aston	50
Imperial College, London	46
Loughborough	43
Bath	38
Oxford	32
Cambridge	31
Bristol	29
UMIST	29
Exeter	28
Glasgow	28
Nottingham	27
Durham	24
Manchester	22
Strathclyde	22
Sheffield	22
Southampton	21
Edinburgh	19
Liverpool	18
King's College London	18
University College London	17
Leeds	17
Cardiff	15

Source: High Fliers Research

Greenpeace all featuring on the list. High Fliers concludes that the opportunity for international travel rates high among many students' priorities.

However, British companies were thought to offer the best opportunities. Marks and Spencer topped the list, followed by Procter & Gamble. London was the preferred destination of 40 per cent of students, followed by southeast England and the Midlands. Only the three Scottish universities strayed from the pattern, although every English university placed its own region next after the capital.

Most students did not expect to stay long with their first employer, anyway. Three to four years was the favourite estimate and 21 per cent anticipated a move within two years. Only 11 per cent expected to stay longer than six years.

Although the survey covers only those universities favoured by the large companies subscribing to High Fliers, its sample is large. More than 12,000 students were interviewed only two months ago, representing one final-year undergraduate in five on the campuses.

Such a limited range of universities is inevitably controversial, but although the big companies will take good applicants from any university, they tend to concentrate their efforts on perhaps a dozen, mainly the traditional variety.

JOHN O'LEARY



David Bailey worked part-time for McDonald's during his studies while Joanna Brock joined after graduation

Beef up your job prospects

Term-time jobs are the bane of modern student life, according to academics, who see the chances of a good degree diminishing with every shift. But opinion is changing as evidence mounts that temporary employment can sometimes be as influential as the degree itself in determining career prospects.

Employers are likely to favour the graduates they know from work placements and some, like Procter & Gamble, are now taking up to half of their intake this way. Careers advisers say that recruiters increasingly demand evidence from part-time employment of a commitment to their type of business. Usually, this means vacation work or, where available, sandwich courses that include placements. But some students find that a term-time job can set them on a career path.

David Bailey, who graduated from the University of East Anglia last year, followed his brother's example by working as a McDonald's crew member during vacations at home

in London. The link led to a term-time job in Norwich and now a salaried post.

Mr Bailey says: "My only idea in the first place was to make some money while I was studying. In retrospect, it may have affected my work, but I was able to tailor the hours to the course. I think term-time and vacation work can be a good thing because you get the opportunity to see whether you enjoy the environment."

Having found that he did enjoy it, Mr Bailey discovered that the hamburger chain has a growing number of salaried posts for graduates. At the age of 21, less than a year after graduating, he is earning £17,500 and often finds himself in charge of 30 staff as a junior manager.

Joanna Brock, 22, a colleague at the restaurant in Leytonstone, northeast London, took the alternative route. After a string of temporary jobs while at Loughborough University, including

delivering car spares and working as a lifeguard, she opted for McDonald's after graduating. "I didn't want an office job, but I did want management experience," she says. "Having studied PE and maths, I was looking for companies with good training and a prospect of early responsibility and, after seven months and one promotion, I have got both."

Most students take temporary work. The availability of part-time jobs is an important consideration for those choosing a college or university, and it will become more important still if the remaining student grants are abolished.

Many universities have bowed to the inevitable and opened their own employment agencies, preferring to exercise a measure of control over their students' activities, rather than adopting an attitude of disapproving detachment. At Sheffield University, for example, everything from lunch-

time supervision in local schools to industrial cleaning goes through the highly popular agency run from the careers office.

Not surprisingly, there are wide variations between institutions in the number of students enjoying career-related work experience, with the technological universities offering most opportunities. More than 80 per cent of students at Bath, Aston and Loughborough universities had some work experience by the time they reached finals, according to the High Fliers survey. At Leeds and Strathclyde, by contrast, the proportion was 60 per cent.

The survey showed that much of the work done by students was casual employment and not necessarily related to future careers. Those who had secured structured work experience tended to clock up six or seven months' employment by the time they graduated, usually over two summer vacations.

JOHN O'LEARY

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE TABLES: THE FULL STORY

This Friday

The Times Higher Education Supplement publishes the raw unweighted data which goes into compiling the university league tables. So if you want to make up your own mind, you know where to look.

THE TIMES
HIGHER
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

Which universities are best at what?

GET YOUR COPY AT YOUR NEWSAGENT

TOMORROW: THE BEST UNIVERSITIES SUBJECT BY SUBJECT

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
47900 Allied Breweries	456	+29	68	135
47900 Carlsberg	456	+29	68	135
47900 Heineken	456	+29	68	135
47900 InBev	456	+29	68	135
47900 Kirin	456	+29	68	135
47900 Asahi	456	+29	68	135
47900 Suntory	456	+29	68	135
47900 Daewoo	456	+29	68	135
47900 Lotte	456	+29	68	135
47900 CJ	456	+29	68	135
47900 SK	456	+29	68	135
47900 LG	456	+29	68	135
47900 Samsung	456	+29	68	135
47900 Hyundai	456	+29	68	135
47900 Daewoo	456	+29	68	135
47900 Lotte	456	+29	68	135
47900 CJ	456	+29	68	135
47900 SK	456	+29	68	135
47900 LG	456	+29	68	135
47900 Samsung	456	+29	68	135
47900 Hyundai	456	+29	68	135

BANKS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
47900 Allied Breweries	456	+29	68	135
47900 Carlsberg	456	+29	68	135
47900 Heineken	456	+29	68	135
47900 InBev	456	+29	68	135
47900 Kirin	456	+29	68	135
47900 Asahi	456	+29	68	135
47900 Suntory	456	+29	68	135
47900 Daewoo	456	+29	68	135
47900 Lotte	456	+29	68	135
47900 CJ	456	+29	68	135
47900 SK	456	+29	68	135
47900 LG	456	+29	68	135
47900 Samsung	456	+29	68	135
47900 Hyundai	456	+29	68	135
47900 Daewoo	456	+29	68	135
47900 Lotte	456	+29	68	135
47900 CJ	456	+29	68	135
47900 SK	456	+29	68	135
47900 LG	456	+29	68	135
47900 Samsung	456	+29	68	135
47900 Hyundai	456	+29	68	135

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

ENGINEERING

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
12300 Allstate	123	+1	5	10
12300 Farmers Group	123	+1	5	10

HEALTHCARE

12300 Citicorp	123	+1	5	10
12300 JPMorgan	123	+1	5	10
12300 Bank of America	123	+1	5	10
12300 Wells Fargo	123	+1	5	10
12300 Chase	123	+1	5	10
12300 PNC	123	+1	5	10
12300 Sun Life	123	+1	5	10
12300 Prudential	123	+1	5	10
12300 MetLife	123	+1	5	10
12300 Aflac	123	+1	5	10
12300 CNA	123	+1	5	10
123				

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Twist in tale at buoyant Bass



Sir Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, awaits approval to buy Allied Domecq's Carlsberg-Tatley stake

TODAY

Interims: Aberdeen Asset Management, Countrywide Properties, Greenalls Group, RM, Finais: British Airways, BTG, Foreign & Colonial Eurotrust, Independent Parts, Silk Industries. **Economic statistics:** UK PSBR (April), US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Abtrust Polar, Countrywide Properties, Elbridge Pope & Co, Hozelock Group, Morgan Grenfell Equity Inc, Royal & Sun Alliance (Q1). **Finais:** Jarvis Porter, Marks & Spencer, Videologic. **Economic statistics:** UK motor vehicle production (April), Bank of England gilt auction, Spanish industrial output (March), US Fed Open Market Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bass, Carlton Communications, Farnet, P&O (Q1), H Young Holdings. **Finais:** Blacks Leisure Group, Courtaulds, Chamberlain & Hill, Hoare Govett 1000, Hoare Govett Smaller, Land Securities, Merchant Retail, Mercury European Privatisation Trust, National Power. **Economic statistics:** UK provisional M4 money supply (April), UK final M0 money supply (April), UK Building Societies Association monthly figures, UK British Bankers Association monthly figures, minutes of April 10 monetary meeting, US trade deficit (March), US Treasury April Budget statement, OECD report on the Republic of Ireland.

THURSDAY

Interims: Acasos & Hutchison, Brooke Industrial, Vaux Group, Finais: Celis Int, City of London PF, Glenmorangle, PowerGen, Southnews, Storehouse, York Waterworks. **Economic statistics:** UK April retail sales, UK provisional GDP (Q1), CBI - May economic forecast/industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: European Publications, Finais: Castings, Essex Furniture. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

BASS: The drinks, hotels and leisure group, is expected to report pre-tax profits of between £310 million and £333 million for the six months to March 31 on Wednesday, compared with £289 million at the same time last year. A rise in the interim dividend to about 8.3p (7.7p) is predicted.

A trading statement released in February reflected a generally disappointing Christmas period, in line with comments made by other leading brewers, while the slowdown in growth in the Holiday Inns division will be exacerbated by the strength of sterling against the dollar. The US accounts for about 30 per cent of Holiday Inns operating profits.

Overshadowing the results is the continuing delay over Bass's proposed £205 million acquisition of Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tatley. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has already passed its recommendations to the Department of Trade and Industry but with the change of government, the whole process may now be delayed further. The deal may result in 2,000 job losses in the Burton constituency newly won by Labour.

On top of this, Bass is under fire for making Hooch, the country's leading ale.

MARKS & SPENCER: A leap in pre-tax profit to more than £1.1 billion is expected when results for the year to March 31 are announced tomorrow. This compares with 1997 million last year. Volume growth is expected to have continued at an exceptional level, except in children's wear which is causing all retailers some difficulties.

Road sales, which are suffering the effects of price deflation, are expected to be less impressive. The investment in improved service, announced at the half year, is expected to mean costs have risen roughly in line with sales.

BRITISH AIRWAYS: BA is facing threats of industrial action by cabin crew and questions about the planned alliance with American Airlines. These may overshadow today's full-year results from the nation's flag carrier. BA is expected to deliver a progress report on the Step Change programme, aimed at saving £1 billion in costs, and is likely to urge speedy approval of BA-American, pointing to the rival Star Alliance between Lufthansa, SAS, United Airlines and others. The City is looking for pre-tax profits of £620 million plus, against £585 million last

time, with Merrill Lynch forecasting earnings of 47.3p a share, with the payout up 8 per cent to 14.7p.

NATIONAL POWER: As with PowerGen, National Power will find that signs of further resistance to the windfall tax will be looked for when the country's two largest generators report year-end results. The City has factored in large hits for both but would welcome hints that they will take legal action against a levy.

With electricity consumption having unexpectedly grown since last year, the home market for the two generators should provide a sturdy if unremarkable performance. More attention will focus on their overseas interests — an increasingly important field because they have relatively little scope for growing their UK business.

Overseas power projects can take a long time to deliver results,

but analysts will be keen to see signs of strength to ameliorate concerns that some countries offer unstable prospects. They will be particularly interested in developments at National Power's Hub River project in Pakistan and Hazelwood, its Australian plant. National Power raised eyebrows with the price it paid for Hazelwood in the privatisation of the station.

POWERGEN: PowerGen recently analysed analysts towards a £530 million to £585 million range of forecasts for its year-end results in a pre-closed-season briefing note. Then it also indicated that its own Australian plant was expected to deliver a loss for the year.

COURTAULDS: The chemicals group is expected to announce a modest advance in full-year pre-tax profits on Wednesday, with the rampant pound and sickly

viscose market casting a shadow over the results.

Analysts' forecasts for pre-tax profit are in a narrow range of between £132 million and £136 million, compared with £131.5 million in the year to March 1996. The dividend is expected to rise to between 16.4p and 16.5p from 16.05p previously.

The strength of the pound will act as a significant restraint. Some 85 per cent of the group's sales are outside Britain. In February, Courtaulds said the strength of sterling and the sale of four non-core operations last year would blunt the impact of trading improvements at most of its core businesses, which include industrial coatings and sealants and consumer packaging.

The second drag on progress continues to be viscose, where profits and prices have been hit by global overcapacity and declining demand. The company has indicated that there are some

signs of recovery in viscose, but nothing to get elated about.

Analysts will be watching for reassurance that the group's plans to introduce new production capacity for its highly successful new fibre Tencel are on course. An announcement of the location of new Tencel capacity in Asia is expected this year.

STOREHOUSE: The share price has been hit by rumours of problems at Mothercare during Storehouse's closed season and analysts fully expect to downgrade next year's forecasts again when its final 1996 results appear on Thursday. Like-for-like sales growth at Mothercare is expected to be down 2.4 per cent, with costs growing and the gross margin under pressure. Current sales will also be closely watched at Bhs, which is at least expected to show some growth. The consensus forecast is for a pre-tax profit of about £118 million, up nearly £10 million on a year ago.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE: Pre-tax profits of between £186 million and £200 million are expected for the three months to March when the first-quarter results are announced tomorrow. This compares with £157 million for the same period a year ago.

The main focus of attention will be the level of progress made with the integration of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, and any further announcements the group may make regarding its proposed 5 per cent buyback.

GREENALLS GROUP: Interim pre-exceptional profits of between £63 million and £65 million (£57 million) a year ago, are expected. A rise in the interim dividend to between 6.65p and 6.8p a share (6.22p) is also expected.

Today's figures will be the first since the group introduced its new divisional structure, which has seen the amalgamation of its food-led outlets with managed pubs and the conversion of 245 managed houses to tenancies.

Managed houses and restaurants now account for more than half of group profits and with the inclusion this time of Premier Lodges and Premier House analysts are expecting the inns division to show a marked improvement in profitability.

Nick Lyall, of SocGen, the broker, expects the reorganisation to add about £10.4 million to divisional operating profits, which should reach £42 million and include a first full interim contribution from Boddingtons, bought for £600 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Keep an eye on the Fed

The new Chancellor is due to speak at the CBI dinner tomorrow. His audience will strain for any hint of higher taxes in the forthcoming Budget, beyond those on utilities. After today's holiday on the Continent, however, attention is likely to stray across the Atlantic, where the US Federal Reserve Board's open market committee meets to mull over US short-term interest rates. Opinions are divided between those who expect the Fed to adopt a wait-and-see stance, giving the US economy a chance to slow down before summer, and those who expect a quarter-point rise in rates to help it on its way.

The outcome will be too late to guide tomorrow morning's auction of £1.5 billion plus short-dated gilt-edged stock. From a domestic viewpoint, Thursday's similarly sized auction of long-dated stock could be more significant. It will allow the debt market to give a more considered verdict on the impact on the implication of Gordon Brown's handover of interest rate powers to a Bank of England committee.

Among the week's gaggle of UK economic statistics, greatest scrutiny will be applied to April retail sales trends, due to be unveiled on Thursday. Was the "feel-good" factor accelerating in Britain's high streets before the election and were windfall gains from demutualisation beginning to swell consumer demand? Median forecast of those collated by Standard & Poor's MMS is for a 0.3 per cent rise on the month, nudging the annual rise up to 4.1 per cent, but several, including Charterhouse Tilney, Nomura and S&P itself, expect a little more. Yamaichi's John Sheppard goes for a 0.8 per cent rise in April on the back of windfalls. Also on Thursday, the CBI's industrial trends survey will monitor the effect of sterling's strength.

Bank of England officials, who have been giving more attention to burgeoning growth in the money supply, will doubtless pounce on any acceleration in M4, the wide measure, revealed by April figures on Wednesday. Median forecast is for a 0.8 per cent rise on the month, boosting 12-month growth from 11.2 to 11.4 per cent, against a monitoring range of 3-9 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent on Sunday: Buy Allied Leisure, Torax Group; Sell De La Rue. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Easynet, Inn Business; Sell Mercury Asset Management. **The Observer:** Buy Updown Investment; Sell BTR. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Aggregate Industries, Marks & Spencer, Salsalad; Take Profits Independent Inns. **The Sunday Times:** Buy Aquarius Group, Premier Farnell, Weir Group.

Colonial windfall for UK investors

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

ABOUT 35,000 UK policyholders with Colonial, the Australian life insurer, should see an instant average profit of £250 when the group joins the Australian stock exchange today. Strong institutional demand for the shares has made the float one of Australia's most oversubscribed.

Peter Smedley, managing director, said yesterday that the shares would be listed on the market at the final institutional price of A\$3.10 (£1.55), 50 cents above the A\$2.60 price at which they were distributed to Colonial policyholders under demutualisation last year. The company had expected institutions to bid in the range A\$2.50 to A\$2.90. Mr Smedley said:

"Vigorous bidding in the institutional stage of the offer has helped push up this price."

The higher listing price means that policyholders who received the average 1,000 shares in Colonial's A\$1.3 billion share distribution have already seen their value rise from A\$2,600 to A\$3,100.

About half of Colonial's 35,000 policyholders in the UK took shares rather than sell

them before the listing. Mr Smedley said policyholders who had chosen to sell will receive a cheque at the end of the month, with the price expected to be midway between the retail and institutional price, at A\$2.85.

The float will raise A\$200 million in new equity for Colonial to buy back Pacific's half share of Jardine CMB Life, Colonial's Asian business.

Trust to offer protection to Lloyd's names

A £30 million investment trust that seeks to give Lloyd's of London names the best of both worlds is to make its stock market debut (on Ashworth writes).

The Conversion Investment Trust, aimed primarily at names on the books of LRG Carter Allen, the Lloyd's members' agent, allows individuals to swap assets at Lloyd's for shares, to protect them from the negative aspects of unlimited liability. It claims to be the first hybrid vehicle of its kind. Eligible names will be able to underwrite at Lloyd's with limited liability from next January.

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Notice to Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 14th May, 1997 it was resolved to capitalise the sum of £1,657,251,621.00 being part of the amount standing to the credit of "Reserve - Investment" and to apply that sum in paying up in full new Ordinary shares of 25p each for distribution credited as fully paid amongst existing holders of Ordinary shares in the proportion of two such new Ordinary shares for each Ordinary share held.

Certificates for the new Ordinary shares distributable in respect of holdings of registered shares will be posted by 4th July, 1997.

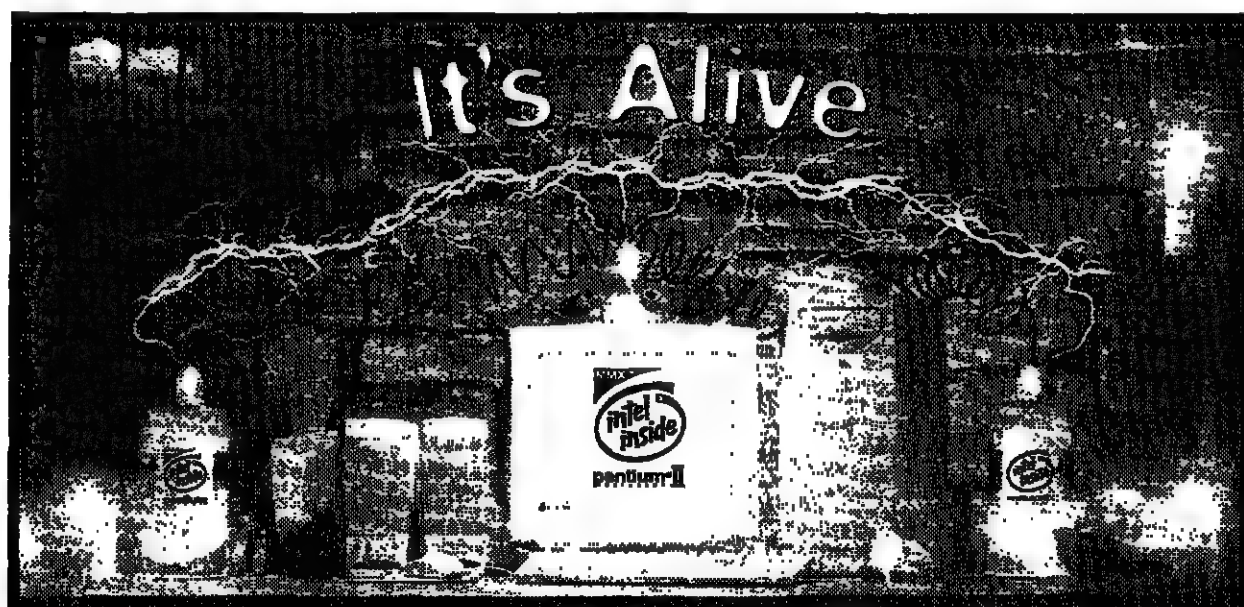
To enable holders of Ordinary shares represented by Warrants to Bearer to obtain their Certificates for the new Ordinary shares, Coupon No. 198 must be deposited on or before 20th August, 1997 at Lloyd's Bank Registrars, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL, together with a duly completed Application Form and Listing Form, copies of which may be obtained from Lloyd's Bank Registrars at the aforementioned address.

If Coupon No. 198 is not so deposited together with a duly completed Application Form and Listing Form on or before 20th August, 1997, or such date as the Board (or a duly constituted Committee thereof) may decide, the new Ordinary shares to which the holder of such Warrant would have been entitled will be sold and the holder of such Warrant, on subsequently depositing Coupon No. 198 and duly completing such forms as the Board (or a duly constituted Committee thereof) may require will be entitled to receive only the net proceeds of sale, after the deduction of expenses.

Coupons No. 198 deposited as aforesaid will not be returned to the depositor and no coupons bearing that number will be used for the payment of dividend. Coupon No. 199 will be the next coupon after No. 197 to be used for that purpose.

By Order of the Board
J.E. Munsiff
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
19th May, 1997



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Bank's hawkishness points to an even lower target for inflation



ROGER BOOTLE

Last week saw three costly familiar events. There was good news on two indicators of inflation ahead — average earnings and producer prices — and the rate of inflation itself fell to 2.4 per cent on the headline measure and 2.5 per cent underlying. Yet the Bank of England came out with its ritual warning of higher inflation just round the corner. Now that the Bank not only advises on interest rates but actually sets them, its thinking deserves even closer scrutiny.

The Bank's view of the inflationary process is clear. In the long run, the rate of increase of prices is governed by the rate of increase of monetary demand. In the short run, the course of inflation can deviate from this path as shocks drive prices either up or down. But these effects wear off, and the rate of inflation then returns to the path indicated by the rate of increase of demand. It is this path that the Bank must seek to influence through its interest rate policy, though it is hampered by the fact that any actions taken now may not have their full effect on demand and inflation for two years. This is the justification for arguing for a further rise in interest rates, even though it acknowledges that inflation is likely to fall this year.

But how well can the Bank be expected to see the inflationary prospect in two years' time? If you read the Bank's *Inflation Report* you get the impression that inflation forecasting is a branch of the natural sciences. Of course the Bank does not claim to know what inflation will be in two

years' time. Rather, it lays out a spectrum of outcomes with probabilities attached to each. But unless the Bank can be very sure of the fundamental facts the economy works, never mind the various shocks to which it is periodically subjected, then these ranges of possible outcomes still represent merely the pretence of certain knowledge, albeit in probabilistic form.

In fact, how inflation behaves in the immediate future should cause us to reflect on our beliefs about the fundamental relations in the economy that will determine how inflation behaves further out. Moreover, the immediate inflation outcome may well influence the outcome in two years' time.

If inflation falls later this year, then this will make it more likely that inflation will be lower next year. Wage settlements will be more easily contained and expectations of inflation, which are so often self-fulfilling, will be more restrained. Even monetary growth will tend to be lower.

But could there be another reason why the

Bank is inclined to dismiss the importance of lower inflation in the months ahead? There is a certain ambiguity about the inflation target that the Bank is charged with meeting, and the responsibility for that rests with the Chancellor. It sounds clear enough — 2½ per cent or less. But is the aim to keep inflation constantly at this level or just to keep it there on average over a run of years? Is an inflation rate of 1 per cent or even

zero to be regarded as more of a success for the Bank than 2½ per cent dead? Is the Bank to set policy so that it can be absolutely sure of hitting the target, or is it sufficient that the Bank's own forecasts show a more than 50 per cent likelihood of hitting it? If inflation does overshoot the target, is this overshoot to be disregarded in future, or should the Bank aim to make up the shortfall by aiming for a period of inflation well below the target?

The Bank may well believe that the favourable shock to the price level this year delivered by the strong exchange rate may be followed by an unfavourable shock. Accordingly, if its aim is to meet the target in the medium term, it should aim to undershoot it significantly in the immediate future.

These questions are made all the more important by the lack of clear justification for the target level of inflation itself. The term "price stability" is bandied about as though it is obvious that 2½ per cent inflation delivers stable prices.

It is not obvious. The justification for

accepting some small rate of inflation when you are aiming for price stability is that the official measure of inflation overstates true inflation. But does this distortion amount to 2½ per cent? I know of no real evidence for this.

In a lecture delivered last October, Professor Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said that "price stability corresponds to a measured inflation rate of some 1 per cent to 2 per cent a year". In the US, the Boskin Commission investigated this issue extensively and concluded that the upward bias to US inflation statistics was probably just over 1 per cent.

So there is a clear justification for aiming for a rate of inflation well below 2½ per cent, and there is a sense in which the current inflation target may be only a staging post on the way to something tougher. Could the Bank's current hawkishness be anticipating this?

Anyone with a sense of British history must be both pleased and worried that the Bank now sets interest rates. One way for Gordon Brown to assuage our worries is to ensure that the individuals appointed to the monetary policy committee reflect a range of views about the way the economy operates.

But over and above this he must institute a full debate and inquiry into the precise form of the target that the Bank is charged with meeting. Leaving things as they are makes it likely that the Bank will deliver an even lower inflation rate. In that, and its attendant costs, we all have a stake.

Unison defies Labour with minimum pay plea

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S biggest trade union will today press the Government for a minimum wage of at least £4.42 an hour — in clear defiance of Labour policy. The move by Unison, the public services union, is a stark indication of the pressure that the trade unions will exert on the Government over low pay.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, Unison general secretary, said: "My job is to keep up the pressure for a decent rate which will really make a difference to the army of workers on poverty pay."

Unison's argument is put forward in a 36-page document that will form the basis of its submission to the Low Pay Commission, the body to be headed by Peter Jarvis,

outgoing chief executive of Whitbread, which will recommend a level for the projected national minimum wage.

Unison's submission contains no reference at all to Labour's pre-election policy shift away from a rigid formula setting the minimum wage at half male median earnings.

Instead, the union simply restates the case for a minimum wage set at precisely this level, which, under current earnings figures, works out at £4.42 an hour. Its document states: "The task now for Unison and other unions is to ensure that the level of a national minimum wage is high enough to make a difference." It says that Unison and other unions should now

make the case for this "at every opportunity".

Well before the election, Labour abandoned support for a formula setting a minimum wage on the lines of Unison's claim, proposing instead that a joint employer-employee Low Pay Commission recommend a minimum wage to the Government.

More than half of British companies are not taking on staff because the workforce is not skilled enough, compared with 43 per cent in the rest of the European Union, according to a survey out today (Chris Ayers writes).

However, the survey also shows that, in Britain, only 17 per cent of companies do not take on staff because of social legislation, compared with 63

per cent in France and 77 per cent in Germany.

Also, only 1 per cent of UK companies believe that trade union restrictions limit recruitment, against the EU average of 13 per cent, and against 16 per cent in Germany and 42 per cent in Finland.

The survey, produced by Grant Thornton International, the financial adviser, and Business Strategies, the economic forecaster, will make interesting reading for the new Labour Government.

Andrew Godfrey, of Grant Thornton, said: "Given that Labour have pledged to reduce unemployment by 250,000, it is important to know what currently stops UK entrepreneurs from taking on more staff."



Duncan Bannatyne is swapping nursing homes for nurseries

Quality Care Homes chief to receive £23m from disposal

By Fraser Nelson

DUNCAN BANNATYNE, a former ice cream seller who sold his house to set up Quality Care Homes, is on course for a £23.5 million windfall after agreeing to sell his company to Principal Healthcare.

The deal values Mr Bannatyne's chain of 47 nursing homes at £46.3 million — against the £265,000 he paid to establish the company ten years ago.

Mr Bannatyne, who holds a 50.8 per cent stake, said he agreed to sell the company because the task of day-to-day management had become too mundane. "I was tired of it, I didn't have enthusiasm for it and I thought it would be better managed by people who were actually keen."

Mr Bannatyne intends to plough the £23.5 million into a

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET															
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1460	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1460	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1461	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1461	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1462	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1462	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1463	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1463	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1464	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1464	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1465	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1465	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1466	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1466	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1467	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1467	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1468	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1468	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1469	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1469	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1470	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1470	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1471	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1471	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1472	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1472	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1473	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1473	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1474	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1474	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1475	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1475	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1476	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1476	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1477	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1477	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2
1478	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25	5.4	10.2	1478	100%	100%	25.91 AFR Solent	100%	25		

Great production values. When does it end?

The peak-time drama slot on a Sunday evening has become one of the toughest battlefields in the ratings war, with ITV and the BBC sending star actors, writers and directors over the top in a bid to capture the hearthland occupied by little old you and me. Are we duly impressed? Not entirely.

Your advantage last night was that you only had to watch one of the offerings, because of course they clashed. Mind you, little would have been lost by switching between the two, for although several things can be said in favour of *Plottlands* (BBC), *Wokenwell* (ITV), neither can be accused of proceeding at a dizzying pace.

There is a phrase fondly used in tellyland and it is "production values". To ordinary mortals, this means that a wall does not shake when someone slams a door and porcelain dishes do not look as if

they are made of plastic. Both of the dramas which opened last night had high production values. But there is another phrase more common among viewers and it is: "What time does this finish?" The asking of this question is a sure sign that things are flagging a little on screen, that splendid production values are all well and good but would it not be nice if something surprising were to happen — and quite soon? The defining damnation of each drama is that it does not much care what happens next week.


I suspect *Plottlands* will do better with awards panels, being the story of a woman banding the odds. It is set in 1922 and concerns Chloe Marsh (Saskia Reeves), who flees a violent marriage by paying £5 for a plot of land outside London. She and her two daughters, aged 14 and 10, live in a tent and eke a living picking potatoes. Reeves is a splendid actress and

Rebecca Callard and Jade Williams are marvellous as the children: their sullen refusal to accept that life has to be like this, even for the time being, is conveyed with an authenticity that every parent will easily recognise.

One of the distinguishing features of BBC drama series in the past few years is that they have tended to start slowly and get better, so I am not about to write off a series written by Jeremy Brock, the co-creator of *Casualty*, and produced by Louis Marks (*Middlemarch*, among others). But the unrelied gloom of episode one was hard to take.

At least *Plottlands* takes risks by having depth. *Wokenwell*, for all its attempts to play at black comedy, is formula drama with undertones of *Heartbeat* and the Ruth Rendell stories which have served ITV well in peak time. Here, too, the acting is excellent

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

and the writing (by Bill Gallagher) has many good moments, but the opener last night felt between too many stools.

The *Wokenwell* of the title is a small Yorkshire town where a human finger is found outside the butcher's shop, thus causing a sudden and dramatic decline in the sale of sausages. Ted Horrocks, the butcher (Peter Wright) is about to marry June

Bonney (Celia Imrie), a ceremony abruptly curtailed when a human hand is found at the reception. Horrocks could not have been more shunned if his sausages had *E. coli*.

So yes, black comedy, but only up to a point. There is more to that art than dropping bits of anatomy into otherwise humdrum situations, and the cries of the producers in preview interviews that this is "not just another police series" smack of protesting too much.

The best opportunity to sustain the claim that *Wokenwell* is markedly different as opposed to slightly different was wasted. There is a rich vein to be mined in the fact that the detective investigating the gruesome discovery was also the butcher's best man. But this became a mere sideshow as the script pursued an utterly conventional line about the bride being stalked by her former husband. Been there, seen that.

The lesbian and gay movement apparently began 100 years ago, and last night saw the start of *It's Not Unusual*, a three-part documentary series on gay life in Britain this century. The opener covered the years to 1951 and was subtitled *Age of Innocence*.

Mercifully there was no attempt at moral analysis, so instead we were able to hear gay people talk about their gayness and the ways in which it manifested itself. The interviewees were devoid of any bitterness or anger and simply recounted their early experiences of same-sex attraction, some of the penalties for which were ironic.


One man recalled how, at public school, he had been found beating another boy on the bottom, for which the punishment was to be beaten on the bottom by a master. Several of the lesbians interviewed made the point that at all-girl

schools, romantic attachments were positively encouraged, being seen as a way of delaying the evil day when girls might chase boys.

At least two people in the film explained how, having started same-sex relationships, they thought they had better try to do what society expected, so began to go out with members of the opposite sex. But this lacked something. "I just wasn't turned on by women," said one man. Another even got married, but it was not to last.



This raises the time-honoured argument of the homophobes, which is that gay relationships are not "natural". I may have difficulty understanding why a man would want to have a romantic relationship with another man, but that is merely a matter of preference. To suggest that a man should become involved with women against his instincts is nonsensical. It isn't natural, either.

- ### BBC1
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (34074)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (30432)
 - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (3062180)
 - 9.20 Style Challenge (340797)
 - 9.45 Kiboy (768345)
 - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (74432)
 - 11.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (7502890)
 - 11.05 The Great Escape interactive holiday magazine (789990)
 - 11.35 Real Rooms Simon Blag presents a new series in which a viewer has a room in their house transformed by a team of designers and decorators (8949744)
 - 12.00 News (T) and weather (8136161)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (884567)
 - 12.35 The Practice (822567)
 - 1.00 News (T) and weather (49819)
 - 1.30 Regional News and weather (86552180)
 - 1.40 The Weather Show (9738567)
 - 1.45 Neighbours (4058108)
 - 2.10 Quincey Drama, starring Jack Klugman (8317971)
 - 2.55 Through the Keyhole (8156364)
 - 3.20 Connoisseurs' Collections Antiques Roadshow expert David Battle reveals his own collection of antiques (8290635)
 - 3.30 Playdays (8019635) 3.50 Monty Python (850529) 4.05 The New York Bear Show (5478277) 4.10 Casper (493819) 4.35 50/50 (9258884) 5.05 Newsworld (T) (593161) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8159093)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (810255)
 - 5.50 News (T) and weather (109)
 - 6.30 Regional News (161)
 - 7.00 Aussie's TV Favourites Rolf Harris: 15-year-old Jess Flynn backstage at *Top of the Pops*; Are You Being Served? actors reminisce (T) (7835)
 - 7.30 Here and Now How the decline in legal aid and the rise in interest in consumer rights has led to an increase in the number of people opting to represent themselves in court. Plus a visit to a school in Newcastle upon Tyne where girls as young as 14 are taking their babies into the classroom in order to continue their education (T) (345)
 - 8.00 EastEnders Sarney's latest escapades land him in the doghouse. George discovers hell hath no fury like the Queen Vic's landlady when scorned. Lorraine pays a Tiffany visit (T) (7105)
 - 8.30 Only Fools and Horses Dad decides to enter the highly profitable tourist trade (T) (T) (5890)
 - 9.00 News (T) and weather (1242)
 - 9.30 Panorama A report on Iran's expanding terror network in Europe (T) (837242)
 - 10.10 The Set-Up (1949) Robert Ryan shines in this drama about an ageing boxer whose refusal to deliberately lose his last fight makes him a target for ruthless gangsters. Filmed in real time. Directed by Robert Wise (1880887)
 - 11.40 Something Big (1971) Comedy western, with Dean Martin and Honor Blackman. A Cavalry colonel on the verge of retirement has one last battle with his long-time bandit enemy. Directed by Andrew V. MacLagan (T) (104180)
 - 1.25am Weather (4488158)

- ### BBC2
- 6.00am O.U.L. Exams — a Curious Kind of Ritual (8239635) 6.25 Science Skills (8144242) 6.50 Animated English: The Creature Comforts Story (8835155)
 - 7.15 News (T) (3890345) 7.30 Teenage Turf (8749797) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (833165) 8.20 Bump (384925) 8.35 Open a Door (8125908) 8.55 The Raccoons (3003525) 9.00 TV6 (78890)
 - 9.30 Ig Paris (7345432) 9.45 Watch Out (734067) 10.00 Teletubbies (17722) 10.30 Go for It (4424971) 10.50 Look and Read Special (4017635) 11.10 20/20 (8472624) 11.30 Glimpse (8277)
 - 12.00 Teaching Today (80428) 12.30 Working Lunch (27068) 1.00 History File (22037242) 1.25 Landmarks (70293155) 1.45 Storyline (8856529) 2.00 Bump (3824432) 2.05 Open a Door (30823703)
 - 2.10 The Journey of Natty Gann (1985) Disney adventure set during the Depression with Mercedes Salenger, John Cusack — and a wolf. Directed by Jerry Kagan (84181)
 - 3.50 A Day That Shook the World (T) (5374364) 3.55 News (T) (5373635) 4.00 Bookbusters (8257894) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (5280971) 4.55 Esther (1185787) 5.30 Today's the Day (938)
 - 6.00 The Simpsons (T) (543285)
 - 6.25 Space Precinct (T) (347109)
 - 7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (T) (442577) WALEX A Parent's Guide.
- 
- Tony Blackburn composes (7.30pm)
- ### BBC3
- 7.30 Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide Featuring educational software for children (T) (987)
 - 8.00 Top Gear Motorsport Mark James and Tim Nease present coverage of the World Rally Championship, the Rallye de France in Corsica (8797)
 - 8.30 The Antiques Show Antiques wines, a man who takes antiques and giving a period look to a wartime film (T) (5432)
 - 9.00 Till Death Us Do Part (T) (9884)
 - 9.30 Tales from the Riverbank to wildlife, fish and anglers during a salmon-fishing season (T) (24612)
 - 10.00 Game On (T) (T) (91155)
 - 10.25 Ordinary people reveal how the Internet has helped them in their everyday lives (388426)
 - 10.30 Newsnight (T) (58560)
 - 11.15 Ruby in conversation with Carrie Fisher and Salman Rushdie (810088)
 - 12.00 The Midnight Hour (T) (7578)
 - 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Glottio: the Arena Chapel (87001) 1.30 The Island — an Historic Production? (84440) 2.00 Night School TV: Special Needs (70349) 4.00 BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (44407) 4.30 Royal Institute Discourses (28846) 5.30-5.59 RCN Nursing Update (25335)

- ### HTV
- 6.00am GMTV (4522838)
 - 6.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (T) (8421616)
 - 9.55 Regional News (T) (3849451)
 - 10.00 The Time, the Place (T) (11548)
 - 10.30 This Morning (8278872)
 - 12.00pm Regional News (T) (8135345)
 - 12.30 News (T) and weather (9211364)
 - 12.55 The Pulse (812155) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (70377161)
 - 1.50 Misfortunes (1993) with David Sisk and John Loo. Two men embark on a hair-raising adventure when their plane crashes on a remote island. Directed by Bruce Donaldson (3787242)
 - 3.20 News (T) (8294451)
 - 3.25 Regional News (T) (8293722)
 - 3.30 Tots TV (T) (8554109) 3.40 Caribou Kitchen (715816) 3.50 Cartoon (7091600) 4.00 Scooby Doo (5387836) 4.25 The Famous Five (T) (4803242) 4.50 The Big Bang (T) (1577428)
 - 5.10 Sorted (T) (7874277)
 - 5.40 News (T) and weather (588364)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (44831)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (540687)
 - 6.30 The West Tonight (T) (529)
 - 7.00 With You Were Here? Lesley Joseph travels to South Australia. Judith Chalmers is in the Spanish port of Valencia and John Carter paddle-stems up the Mississippi (T) (2703)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street Trouble awaits Judy at the amusement arcade (T) (513)
 - 8.00 World in Action Hard-hitting topical reports (T) (1451)
 - 8.30 The Freddie Starr Show Magician Wayne Dobson joins the unpredictable funnymen (T) (7258)
 - 10.00 News (T) and weather (91109)
 - 10.30 Regional News (T) (976088)
 - 10.40 The West Story: Slap Happy? (935151)
 - 11.15 Show of Strength A profile of the Show of Strength public theatre company (T) (321513)
 - 12.15am Beattie Lads (7700001)
 - 12.40 Lip Service (1988) with Griffin Dunne and Paul Dooley. Offbeat satirical drama about an established breakfast TV host being forced to share the limelight with a gauche hotshot. Directed by William H. Macy (4021338)
 - 2.00 Mainly Men (T) (40881)
 - 2.30 Cold Nation (T) (T) (95952)
 - 3.30 World's Gift (T) (74488)
 - 4.30 World in Action (T) (T) (86310)
 - 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (T) (30914)
 - 5.30 News (38339)

- ### CENTRAL
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9123155)
 - 1.50 Blue Healers (8588155)
 - 2.50-3.20 High Road (2531093)
 - 3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (7874277)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (892526)
 - 10.40 Film: Blow Out (5522342)
 - 12.40am War of the Worlds (4010556)
 - 1.40 Late and Loud (8901372)
 - 2.40 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (8675407)
 - 3.05 Film: The Night Caller (5687407)
 - 4.30 Central Jobfinder '97 (2191833)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (8875759)
- ### WESTCOUNTRY
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55 Home and Away (9123155)
 - 1.25 High Road (21212987)
 - 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8689074)
 - 2.50-3.20 Westcountry Update (2531093)
 - 3.10-3.40 Home and Away (7874277)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (22513)
 - 10.30 Westcountry News (828708)
 - 10.45 A Tale of Three Farms (217118)
 - 11.15 Power Game (903971)
 - 11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (372838)
- ### MERIDIAN
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9123155)
 - 1.50 At Home with Maggie Philbin (40551242)
 - 2.20-3.20 Blue Healers (2768857)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7874277)
 - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (277)
 - 6.30-7.00 Country Ways (529)
 - 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (828708)
 - 10.45 The Pier (496971)
 - 11.15 Swift Justice (479180)
 - 12.10am Meridian Focus (2485372)
 - 5.00 Freezone (39914)
- ### ANGLIA
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9123155)
 - 1.50 Blue Healers (8588155)
 - 2.50-3.20 Crawshaw Pains (2531093)
 - 3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (7874277)
 - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (892526)
 - 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (828708)
 - 10.45 Cross Question (324600)
 - 11.45 Highlander (372838)
- ### SAC
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (54884) 7.00 The Big Bang Theory (52942) 9.00 Bewitched (78258) 9.30 Yogi Berra (120118) 12.00 Australia Wild (81722) 12.30pm Monty Williams (18364) 1.00 Slot Meltham (28526136) 1.15 Smot y Ci (8557087) 1.25 Film: Young Bess (3904488) 3.30 Cowboys' Lot (655) 4.00 Fitness-Only (823) 4.30 Gadget Party (428) 5.00 5 Pump (4372777) 5.10 Film (431161) 5.30 Gogs (5798616) 5.30 Countdown (906) 6.00 Newyddion (294257) 6.05 News (848857) 6.35 Sion a Stan (357277) 7.00 Pabot y Cwm (784938) 7.25 Taro Nawl (718353) 8.00 Cwib Carole (2908) 8.30 Newsnight (580) 9.00 O Fflewddur Lygodd (3071) 10.00 Sporio (7461180) 11.05 Planet Showbiz (429180) 11.35 NBA Raw (986154) 12.35am Film: The Good Mother (464952) 2.25-2.35 Soak it Up (8553440) 4.00 Ysgolion (7368488)

- ### CHANNEL 4
- 6.00am Sesame Street (T) (54884) 7.00 The Big Bang Theory (52942) 9.00 Bewitched (T) (78258)
 - 9.30 Schools Geography Junction (T) 9.45 Book Box (T) 10.00 Stage Two Science (T) 10.15 Schools at Work 10.20 On the Walls 10.40 The English Programme (T) 11.05 Enciclopedia Galactica 11.15 The Max (T) 11.30 Rai-Sat-Tal 11.45 Living and Growing (T) (120118)
 - 12.00 Australia Wild (T) (T) (81722)
 - 12.30pm Light Lunch (56355)
 - 1.30 Fishing the Sloe-Black River (T) (8006345)
 - 1.50 The Overlanders (1946, b/w) with Chips Rafferty. A fact-based drama about an Australian drover who makes a 2,000-mile cattle drive southward across hostile territory to save 1,000 head. Directed by Harry Watt (T) (46999161)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (635) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (242) 4.30 Countdown (T) (428) 5.00 Monty Williams (T) (8839) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (908)
 - 6.00 Home Improvement New series of the American comedy with Tim Allen as a DIY television show host (819)
 - 6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (971)
 - 7.00 Channel Four News (T) (196819)
 - 7.50 Soak It Up Series supporting Adult Learner's Week (T) (172513)
 - 8.00 Mrs Cohen's Money: Clubbing Together In the last of the financial advice series, Bernice Cohen looks at the minimum risk, high returns of collective funds (T) (8093)
 - 8.30 The Entertainers The Beverly Aristes Agency stage their 30th annual trade show to promote some of the best acts on their books (5/5) (T) (5600)
- 
- Julie Walters as Paula (8.00pm)
- ### CHANNEL 5
- 6.00am 5 News Early (8635567)
 - 7.30 Havalakazoo (548987) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (83301)
 - 8.30 WideWorld: Our Children, Ourselves Examining the development of children from birth to early-school years (8322180)
 - 9.00 Espresso (2360432) 10.00 Exclusive (7947345) 10.30 Attractions (T) (8319616)
 - 11.00 Leesa (9086616) 11.50 Double Espresso (34387906) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8237088) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (T) (4412987)
 - 1.00 5 News Update (49738906)
 - 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (349629)
 - 2.00 5's Company (791125)
 - 3.30 Strangers When We Meet (1960) with Kirk Douglas, Kim Novak and Ernie Kovacs. Romantic drama about an affair between two unhappily married people. Directed by Richard Quine (853155)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (9182108)
 - 6.00 Whistle (T) (8172722)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Chris and Annie get a call from the Inland Revenue (T) (9163074)
 - 7.00 Exclusive Showbiz gossip (4514105)
 - 7.30 Animal Omen: The Truth About Mrs Tigglywinkle Documentary exploring the mysterious nocturnal life of the hedgehog (T) (918255)
 - 8.00 Hot Property Sandy Mitchell guides a wealthy single man through the property market as he looks for a penthouse flat or a house in the centre of London (T) (3265813)
 - 8.30 5 News (2165058)
- 
- Estevae and Jackson (9.00pm)
- ### NATIONAL LAMPHOON'S LOADED WEAPON
- 1 (1993) with Samuel L. Jackson, Emilio Estevez and Jon Lovitz Spoof of the Lethal Weapon films. Basic Instinct and Silence of the Lambs Directed by Gene Quintano (2078703)
 - 10.30 Ties and Fitas Medical quiz hosted by Tony Slattery with doctor Phil Hammond and Hilary Jones (810345)
 - 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (5662884)
 - 11.40 We Know Where You Live Comedy sketches and spoofs with Simon Pegg, Fiona Allen and Sanjeev Bhaskar (4146033)
 - 12.10am Live and Dangerous Through the night sports magazine with guests John Regis and Tony Janet. Includes at 2.00 coverage of extreme sports (4247551)
 - 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4904285)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (2252469)

- ### VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to automatically record a programme when you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Camerac Developer Ltd.
- ### For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory published on Saturday SKY 1
- 6.00am Morning Glory (48880) 9.00 News 9.30 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 6.00 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ROGER BOOTLE 45

Hawkish Bank ready to swoop on inflation

BUSINESS

GAME PLAN 46

How Big Blue moved out of the red



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 19 1997

Formula One chief agrees £1bn price cut to get float off the grid

By JASON NISSE

BERNIE ECCLESTONE, the flamboyant chief executive of Formula One, has agreed to a cut of up to £1 billion in the valuation of the motor racing marketing business so that it can be floated on the international stock markets this summer.

Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank that is backing the float, is expected to announce a timetable for the issue in the next few days. But the valuation has been cut from earlier estimates of £2.5 billion to as low as £1.5 billion. The business owns the intellectual property rights to Formula One motor racing, controlling TV coverage and selling it to international broadcasters. This year's turnover is expected to be £200 million, generating pre-tax profits of £85 million.

However, although Salomon expects to be able to have the prospectus ready by the middle of next month, key deals with the Formula One racing teams have yet to

be finalised. Three UK teams, Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell, have yet to agree to amended terms to the Concorde agreement which governs the distribution of the income from televising the sport in more than 100 countries.

They want a larger slice of the cake. "Viewers tune in to see our drivers racing our cars, not Ecclestone counting his money," said a leading member of one team. Although no deal has been signed, Mr Ecclestone, who is set to make more

than £500 million from the float, claims this is not a problem. He says he is prepared to offer racing teams and track owners a stake in Formula One to bring about the float.

Presentations to investors and analysts have already tentatively started, with Mr Ecclestone unveiling an impressive new management team. This is led by Helmut Werner, former chairman of Mercedes-Benz, as chairman, with Marco Piccinini, sporting director of Ferrari, as deputy

chief executive, David Wilson, formerly of Ernst & Young and Ladbroke, as finance director, and two high-profile non-executives, Robert Rowley, finance director of Reuters, and Walter Thoma, head of the European operations of Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro cigarettes.

A presentation was made in London on Friday and Formula One is expected to take institutional investors to the Spanish grand prix this weekend.

Salomon is telling potential investors

that Formula One is set to have a massive step-up in profits as a result of pay-per-view TV. The technology was tested in coverage of the German grand prix last year, when the race was shown from various camera angles on different channels of German satellite TV. However, team owners have expressed concern that pay-per-view will cut audiences and reduce the income from sponsors, some of whom have been put off by restrictions on tobacco advertising, notably in France.

Amstrad given boost in \$186m US legal fight

By ADAM JONES AND JASON NISSE

AMSTRAD'S hopes of winning a second lucrative court battle over the allegedly faulty components supplied for its personal computers have been boosted by apparent disarray among its opponents' lawyers.

Alan Sugar's company is suing Western Digital Corporation, a leading disk drive manufacturer based in Irvine, California, for \$186 million in the US courts. The lawsuit relates to allegedly faulty disk drives that Western Digital made for Amstrad personal computers at the end of the 1980s. Western Digital denies the claim.

Ten days ago, Amstrad won \$7.5 million plus interest in the High Court in London from Seagate Technology, another US company, over faulty hard disk drives it delivered for Amstrad PC 2386 computers.

Western Digital supplied drives for the same range, although it said the two court cases are very different. Unlike Seagate, Western Digital said it had at no point admitted to any design faults.

However, Irell & Manella, the leading Los Angeles law firm that Western Digital has employed since 1991 to fight Amstrad has been disqualified from the case.

A California judge ruled that the law firm was subject

to a conflict of interest because it had hired a specialist consultancy that Amstrad had already approached. The consultancy had seen confidential information from Amstrad that the judge ruled could have been used against it in the case.

Western Digital and Irell & Manella have requested that the judge reconsider. The case is due to start on June 30. It can be postponed, but, under Californian law, cannot be delayed beyond this year.

Robert Blair, of Western Digital, said that it would be possible to adequately prepare a new team. "It's certainly a setback, but we are confident that we have enough time, even if the judge doesn't reconsider," he said.

The victory over Seagate has raised the prospect of a bumper cash payout to Amstrad shareholders, of which Mr Sugar is the largest.

The company already has £200 million of cash in its balance sheet and Mr Sugar has said he will distribute this to shareholders if he can find a tax efficient way of doing so.

After the transfer of the last of Amstrad's consumer electronics businesses to Betacom on Friday, Amstrad has a 69 per cent stake in Betacom and is talking about distributing Betacom shares to Amstrad investors. The only other substantial business left in Amstrad is Viglen, a personal computer maker.

Seagate has said it will appeal against the High Court decision, but legal experts are sceptical because the ruling came from the Official Referee and therefore can only be appealed against in exceptional circumstances. Al Shugar, Seagate's chief executive officer, was reported in the *Wall Street Journal* as having said: "His wig was on too tight and it caused brain damage."

Mr Sugar said in response: "I find Mr Shugar's comments outrageous. He seems to be suffering with the same problem as the disk drives he shipped us: memory loss." Amstrad has maintained that the supply of faulty disk drives undermined its position and reputation in the UK. Mr Sugar pondered: "Who knows where this company would have been if this had not happened?"



Sugar: outraged by rival



Classics such as *Pride and Prejudice* will feature on digital terrestrial TV in the wake of the BBC-Flextech deal

BBC-Flextech in two-way bet

By ERIC REGULY

AN AMERICAN media company has opened negotiations to buy programming from the BBC and Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, in the belief that it will beat a rival British group for the right to launch digital terrestrial TV next year.

The Digital Television Network, owned by NTL, the American cable company, wants to buy the broadcast rights to as many as eight subscription channels under development by the new BBC-Flextech joint venture. These will carry new and classic programming produced by

the BBC, such as the recent adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

The channels, however, are already committed to British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the rival digital-TV group owned by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

It has emerged that the BBC-Flextech joint venture is free to supply its channels to DTN if BDB's digital-TV bid fails. The Independent Television Commission is meeting this week to examine the bids

and is expected to announce the winner by early June.

Jeremy Thorp, chief executive of DTN, said: "We have been in extensive negotiations with the BBC and Flextech. We have a letter from them saying that, if we win, they will be happy to conclude negotiations with us."

In January, BDB convinced the BBC-Flextech joint venture to back its efforts to introduce digital TV in terrestrial form. Its launch will bring an explosion of choice to viewers, introducing multi-channel TV and interactive services to the three quarters

of British households that do not subscribe to cable or satellite TV.

The channels from BBC-Flextech and BSkyB, which agreed to supply Sky 1 and three premium movie and sports channels, gave BDB a programming line-up that was considered far stronger than DTN's.

United News & Media, the newspaper and ITV group, also believes that DTN could win the digital sweepstakes. Earlier this month, United said it would invest £120 million for a 30 per cent stake in DTN if DTN wins.

Lonrho looks at £2bn merger

By JASON NISSE

Lonrho, which is turning itself into a pure mining group, has received an approach from JCI, the black-controlled South African mining company, proposing a £2 billion merger.

Nick Morrell, Lonrho's chief executive, has asked Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the group's merchant bank, to look at the proposals, but yesterday a spokesman said that Lonrho had not entered into formal merger talks.

JCI, which has hired SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, to push through its plans, is claiming the backing of Anglo American Corporation, the South African group with a 28.4 per cent stake in Lonrho.

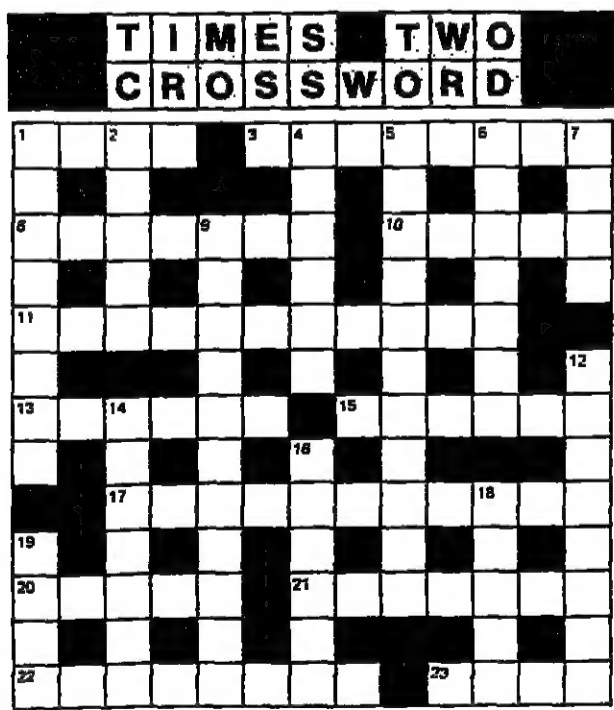
The scheme would involve Lonrho making an agreed bid, worth around £900 million, for JCI and funding this by selling its 41 per cent stake in Ashanti, the Ghanaian mining group, to Anglo.

At the same time Anglo would sell back its stake to Lonrho, which would cancel the shares. Anglo is allowed to vote only 9.9 per cent of its shares under a European Commission anti-trust ruling and is sitting on a £100 million loss on the investment.

The resulting group would have a market capitalisation of around £2 billion, listings in London and Johannesburg and excellent political connections within South Africa.

JCI is headed by Mzi Khumalo, a former political prisoner who spent 12 years on Robben Island with Nelson Mandela. He joined JCI after Anglo sold its stake under the country's black empowerment programme.

Lonrho is preferring to take a "wait and see" line as it believes a number of South African groups would be keen to strike deals with it.



No 1097

ACROSS

- 1 Live in tent: effeminate (4)
- 3 Bully, intimidate (8)
- 8 Semi-human slave (*Tempest*) (7)
- 10 Praise highly (5)
- 11 Dejected (11)
- 13 Obscure prophecy (6)
- 15 Rook: Englishman's home (*prov*) (6)
- 17 Of regular form (11)
- 20 Exhaust, empty (5)
- 21 Boy king murdered in Tower (6,1)
- 22 Government department (8)
- 23 Great house: entry, dining room (4)

DOWN

- 1 Dawn (8)
- 2 Serum (5)
- 4 Loan payment (6)
- 5 Garden cart (11)
- 6 Vanished (species) (7)
- 7 Narration (4)
- 9 15 paraps (11)
- 12 Height zero (3,5)
- 14 Refrain (*from*) (7)
- 16 (*Deceptive, shifty*) surface (6)
- 18 Papal court (5)
- 19 Dutch town, cheese (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1096

- ACROSS: 1 Skater 5 Reduce 8 Atop 9 Disraeli 10 Banish
12 Lure 15 Rite of passage 16 Naft 17 Dangle 19 Crabwise
21 Bite 22 Accept 23 Legion
- DOWN: 2 Katharina 3 Tip 4 Red shift 5 Rusk 6 Deadly sin
7 Col 11 Ineffable 13 Rigoletto 14 Hard sell 18 Gist 20 Roe
21 Bag

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